THE TALON

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • FALL 2007

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Lieutenant Governor-Elect Phil Bryant '77

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THE TALON

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • FALL 2007

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Each year at Homecoming, the Association honors seven of the University's finest alumni with induction into the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame. This edition of *The Talon* includes biographical sketches of the 2007 inductees, as well as those alumni who were presented Alumni Association awards as part of Homecoming festivities.

25 | 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT

This edition of *The Talon* includes eight pages dedicated to the Alumni Association's Annual Report. The report includes updates on the Association's most important projects, as well as membership and financial information.

34 | FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

Phil Bryant '77 has not stopped since his election as Mississippi's lieutenant governor in November. You could forgive him, however, if he took a minute to reflect on the nature of his election. Following in the footsteps of Evelyn Gandy, Bryant will become only the second Southern Miss alum to serve in the lieutenant governor's post.

36 | A DRIVING FORCE

Each fall, a team of 10 admissions counselors become self-described road warriors as they travel to high schools and community colleges throughout the region to promote the quality and advantages of the Southern Miss student experience.

40 | LOFTY EXPECTATIONS

The Golden Eagle basketball team looks ready to build on last year's success under head coach Larry Eustachy. The Eagles return four starters and almost all of last season's contributors, led by sophomore Jeremy Wise, who averaged 17.5 points a game a year ago.

FRONT COVER: PHIL BRYANT '77 HAS BEEN ELECTED MISSISSIPPI'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. ON THE COVER, BRYANT STANDS ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE CAPITOL BUILDING IN JACKSON. **PHOTO BY DANNY RAWLS '69, '80**

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MAKE A PERMANENT CONNECTION

Forge a lifelong link to your alma mater by becoming a Life Member of the Alumni Association. In addition to assuring your connection with the University, a Life Membership qualifies your USM-bound children for an out-of-state tuition waiver (subject to University guidelines), entitles you to a Life Membership plaque and helps fund programs that benefit the University and the Southern Miss community.

"I am a Life Member of the Alumni Association because Southern Miss was an important part of my life. I spent four years there, and it is important for me to keep in touch with a place that had so much influence on my life."

Bill Phalen '65
CEO and Chairman
Cities West Publishing

Contact the Alumni Association office at 601.266.5013 or visit SouthernMissAlumni.com.

Mississippi's lieutenant governor-elect, Phil Bryant '77, said it best when addressing a group of alumni a few weeks ago. "Southern Miss is much more about the future than the past, and I am proud to be a part of that future," he said.

While The University of Southern Mississippi alumnus stood alone at the podium as he made the remark, he could have very well been speaking for all of us who had gathered at an Alumni Association reception in Hattiesburg honoring the Life Member and Alumni Hall of Fame inductee following his election.

Without question, Southern Miss alumni have much to be proud of as our outstanding institution has grown from a small college to a more than 15,000-student university with almost 120,000 graduates to its credit. To be certain, the Alumni Association will continue to lead the way in ensuring Southern Miss traditions are preserved and the University's past is revered. Nevertheless, we share the lieutenant governor's vision for the future. Southern Miss is certainly more about the future than the past, and like the lieutenant governor, the Alumni Association is proud to be a part of it.

Alumni Association members who are familiar with our organization's strategic overview know that in recent years the volunteer leaders who have served on our Executive Committee and Board of Directors have outlined an ambitious path to success. Among other items, they have called for improved facilities, an increase in membership numbers, and a larger, more efficient and productive staff. They have provided the foundation, and along with the support of our members, have placed the Association in a position to effectively implement the vision they have for the organization. In 2008, you can expect to see this vision becoming reality.

First, we fully expect to conclude the Ogletree House Campaign by the end of 2007, as contributions and commitments to the project have exceeded 99 percent of our $3 million goal. Early in 2008, we will begin construction on the new facility, which should be complete in 2009. When finished, the new Ogletree House will double the size of the original structure, and the restored portion of the project will return the nearly 100-year-old facility to its original glory. We again thank all of you who have donated and made commitments to this worthwhile project. Because of your dedication and loyalty to the University and the Alumni Association, we will have a facility that will not only be physically impressive, but will meet the functional needs of our organization for years to come.

Second, we are launching the first multi-year campaign to increase membership in the Association to 20,000 by the celebration of the University's Centennial on March 30, 2010. While the Association currently ranks near the national average in terms of alumni participation, reaching our goal will set an important membership benchmark for our organization. As current members of the Association, you play an important role in the campaign. If you are an annual member, I encourage you to join as a Life or three-year member to ensure that you are part of the Association on March 30, 2010. If you are already a Life Member or have recently joined as a three-year member, I ask that you invite a friend to do the same.

Third, you can expect to see continued improvements to alumni publications. Our staff, along with the guiding hand of our Publications Board, has worked hard to ensure *The Talon* remains as one of the top alumni magazines in the country. In the next edition of the magazine however, you will notice additional pages along with new graphic design elements, as the Board of Directors has approved an expansion of the award-winning publication.

These are just a few of the items you can expect to see implemented in the very near future. Our volunteers have provided us with an ambitious vision, but vision without implementation means little. That being said, I have every reason to believe our staff and volunteers will make that vision for the future a reality. And like our new lieutenant governor, I am confident you too will be proud to be a part of it.

Southern Miss to the Top!

Bob Pierce
Executive Director
Southern Miss Alumni Association

Southern Miss Collaborates on Grant to Improve Services in Public Schools

The Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education is collaborating with the State Department of Education on a grant designed to improve educational services to students in Mississippi's public schools.

The $3.75 million, five-year grant is titled "Realizing Excellence for All Children in Mississippi" (REACH-MS) and is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. It is designated for reform and improvement of educational services for students with disabilities by addressing the needs of all students in public schools.

Through the grant project, REACH-MS will use research-based knowledge to support systems change and professional development activities to develop model sites around the state, which successfully implement research-based strategies literacy, positive behavior support and family involvement for all K-12 students.

Because the needs of students with disabilities are no longer just a special education issue, REACH-MS staff work within a school improvement process to improve the education for the entire community of learners, said Dr. Hollie Filce, project director for REACH-MS and an assistant professor and coordinator for special education programs at Southern Miss.

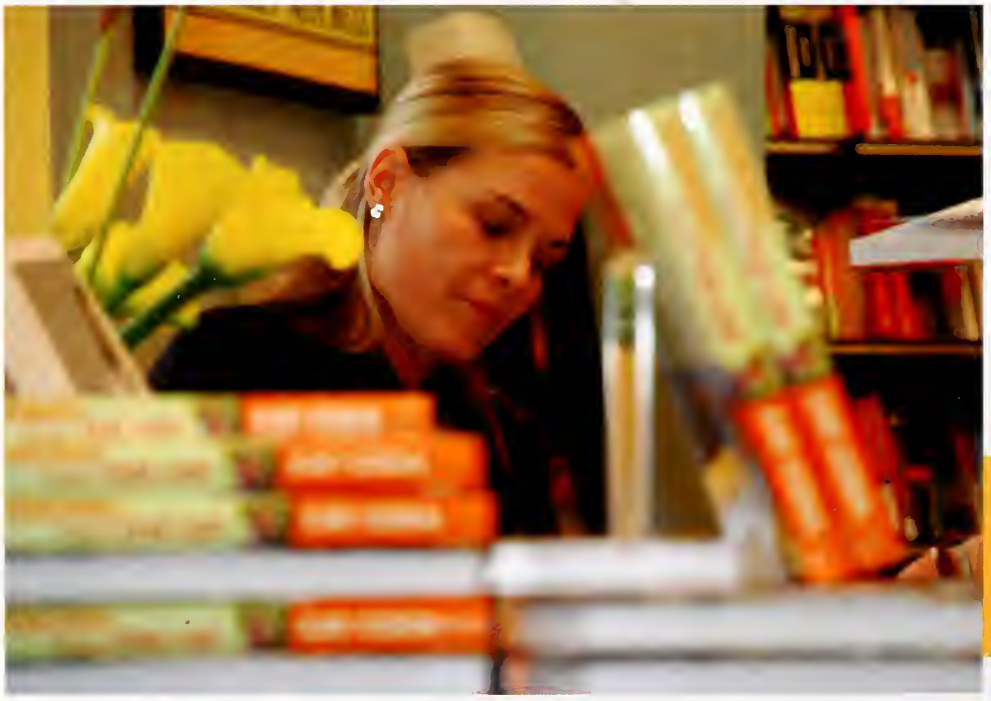
"This grant provides a chance for us to help to build the capacity of schools across our state by building model sites in the areas of literacy and positive behavior support that will serve as a blueprint for all schools in our state," she said.

REACH-MS will then build upon the structures developed to expand to more school districts in the state, as well as into other professional development systems and also teacher preparation programs at the State Institutions of Higher Learning.

REACH-MS currently works with 24 schools in eight Mississippi public school districts to develop model sites in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and School-wide Literacy Support through comprehensive information dissemination, professional development, technical assistance and family involvement.

An additional four districts will be added during the 2008-09 school year.

Jenna Escadero, director of special services with the Forrest County School District, said the grant provides valuable resources to help promote model behavior among students in the district. "It's allowed us access to experts who are working with the grant as well as funding resources to help us with system-wide programming to promote positive behavior," she said.



Record Number Visit for Black and Gold Day

A record number of high school seniors turned out for The University of Southern Mississippi's Black and Gold Day on Nov. 10, an annual recruiting event designed to help students learn more about the opportunities available to them at Southern Miss.

Approximately 2,000 students came to the Hattiesburg campus, more than twice the number that participated last year, where they took part in seminars covering a variety of topics, including academics, residence life, Greek Life, student government, and scholarships and other forms of financial aid assistance. Other sessions were directed at parents to give them insights on life at the University.

Students also enjoyed lunch and received a ticket to attend the Southern Miss - University of Memphis football game.

Allison Bruton, director of recruitment at Southern Miss, credited the work of her staff and student recruiters who make up Eagle Connection to get the word out, including multiple mailouts of literature about University programming and more visibility through usm.edu.

Bruton said that she consistently hears that what draws many students to Southern Miss is the strength of its academic programs and the friendliness of its people. "They also like the size of our campus and how easy it is to navigate," she said.

Beverlee Belding came to campus for Black and Gold Day with her daughter, Alex, to check out the University and see what it had to offer her child. "She (Alex) came here for Girls State and was impressed with the campus," Belding said. "She is interested in studying nursing. I hope she decides to come here."

Nick Dole of Mobile, Ala., said he has planned on attending Southern Miss for some time, and Black and Gold Day helped solidify his choice to come to Hattiesburg to obtain a college degree. "We went on a tour of campus and learned about what the University has to offer," he said. "I've been to a couple of other college days, but this, by far, has been the most well-planned and organized one that I have been to."

Left, Alumna Cat Cora, the first female chef on the renowned "Iron Chef America" television show, autographs copies of her book, "Cooking from the Hip," during a book-signing at the University's Barnes and Noble bookstore on the Hattiesburg campus. Cora was also the featured speaker for the University Forum Lecture Series in October.

Dixie Darling alumna Susan Bolen '64, of Jackson, Ala., leads fellow alumnae as they kick up their heels in preparation for their Saturday, Oct. 13 night performance at the Homecoming football game.

Fine to Serve as Commencement Speaker

Houston, Texas, healthcare executive David J. Fine has been selected to receive an honorary degree during fall commencement ceremonies on Dec. 14 in Hattiesburg.

Fine will receive the Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa from Southern Miss during the afternoon and will be the commencement speaker for the afternoon and evening graduation exercises.

Since June 2004, Fine has served as president and chief executive officer of St. Luke's Episcopal Health System in Houston. St. Luke's is a multi-hospital, integrated healthcare delivery system with 7,000 employees and $1 billion in net patient revenues. It is the home of the famed Texas Heart Institute and the Episcopal Health Charities of the Diocese of Texas.

School of Mass Communication and Journalism Hosts Social Justice Symposium, Hall of Fame

The School of Mass Communication and Journalism hosted the first Mass Communication and Journalism Symposium, "Social Justice and the News," on the Hattiesburg campus Nov. 9.

That day the school also inducted three legendary Mississippi journalists and seven Southern Miss journalism alumni into its Hall of Fame.

The symposium included a morning panel, featuring three longtime Mississippi journalism standouts, Charles Dunagin, Bill Minor and W.C. "Dub" Shoemaker, who discussed their experiences covering civil rights stories during the 1960s. The three were then inducted into the School of Mass Communication and Journalism Hall of Fame at a luncheon ceremony.

After lunch, a panel of Southern Miss journalism alumni, including Natalie Allen (NBC News correspondent), Cathy Straight (*USA Today* national editor) and Goodloe Sutton (editor and publisher of *The Democrat-Reporter* in Linden, Ala.), discussed current media issues related to social justice.

"Southern Miss has produced a significant number of journalists who have made important contributions to the world and to social justice."

- Chris Campbell, Director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism

The event concluded that evening with a Hall of Fame induction dinner honoring Allen, Straight, Sutton and four other journalism graduates, including Lisa Hitt, copy editor at *USA Today*; Charles Kershner, president and executive editor of *The Clinton (N.Y.) Courier*; Carol Bagley McPhail, who was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize when she was an editorial writer for *The Mobile Register*, and Jean Sutton, the late wife of Goodloe Sutton, who was a reporter at *The Democrat-Reporter* when the newspaper gained national attention for its coverage exposing widespread corruption in the Marengo County (Ala.) sheriff's office.

"Southern Miss has produced a significant number of journalists who have made important contributions to the world and to social justice, so this was an ideal opportunity to recognize that," said Chris Campbell, director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism. "We're very proud of these graduates and what they've accomplished."

"In honoring Charlie Dunagin, Bill Minor and Dub Shoemaker, our goal was to recognize three of the many Mississippi journalists who did remarkable work during the civil rights era," he said. "We have several faculty members and doctoral graduates who have done significant research on social justice issues in journalism, so the symposium fit right in with the academic process of identifying and studying these trends, which are as important now as they were in the past."

All proceeds from the day-long events benefited the Gene Wiggins Scholarship Endowment, which supports scholarships for students in the School of Mass Communication and Journalism.

Pictured from left to right are W.C. Shoemaker, Charlie Dunagin and Bill Minor. These legendary journalists were inducted into School of Mass Communication and Journalism's Hall of Fame.

J.L. Scott Marine Education Center Receives Important Designation

J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, the community education and outreach arm of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, has been designated as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) by Coastal America.

Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along the nation's coasts and to promote ocean literacy. The organization designates learning centers around the nation to create an expanded information network for the general public and to encourage mutually beneficial cooperation between the federal agencies and non-federal facilities.

Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, gave the keynote address for the designation ceremony. Before the ceremony, Mrs. Bush visited with 25 fifth-grade students from Taconi Elementary in Ocean Springs who were involved in a marine debris classroom activity at the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center.

Mississippi Govorner Haley Barbour was also among a host of University, state, local and federal dignitaries who attended the event.

In accepting the designation, Southern Miss President Martha Saunders said the University is honored by this recognition of the Marine Education Center. "The work of Coastal America is tremendously important and we join their focus on environmental education. At Southern Miss, we will bring the full measure of our intellectual capital, educational creativity and scientific discovery talents to advance environmental awareness and stewardship among the public."

The Marine Education Center becomes the 21st member of the CELC network, extending a partnership that will focus on the shared preservation, restoration and education of the Gulf of Mexico.

As a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, the Center will continue to develop and conduct elementary and secondary classes and teacher training programs, involve volunteers and non-governmental groups in educational and outreach programs, assist in recruiting volunteers for Coastal America restoration and protection projects, and assist Coastal America in facilitating exchange of research, educational outreach materials, lesson plans, films and informational exhibits.

Coastal America developed the regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center program in 1996 to meet the partners' educational commitments and to extend Coastal America's federal agency partnership to qualified federally and non-federally operated facilities that educate the public concerning coastal environments and their inhabitants.

[illegible] Courtesy of the U.S. Department of the [illegible] Mississippi Governor [illegible] Mississippi [illegible] the J.L. Scott [illegible] Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.

Pride Drumline Sets the Tone for Gameday

For senior percussionist Jimi Brown, the football game-day adrenaline surge starts with a spirited tailgating drumline show outside of Bennett Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. Feeding off of the vibrant wave of cheers erupting from the throng of Southern Miss football fans, Brown and his fellow percussionists march into The Rock with a clear mission in mind: to provide the beats that drive the cleats.

"On game day, it really does feel like we're part of the team," Brown said. "Just as the football players practice every week to get their game plan down, we sweat it out on the [Pride] field every week to get ours down...and when we step into The Rock, both of those game plans come together for one incredible show."

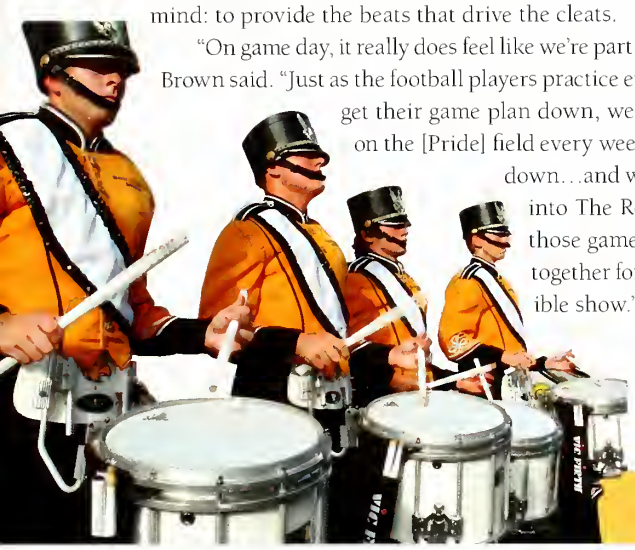
Brown is a member of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band's drumline, a tight-knit squad of 25 students—some of whom are non-music majors—divided into four sections: bass, tenor, snare and cymbals. Going into the season, both the bass and tenor sections were made up of new faces, posing a challenge for Dr. John Wooton, percussion professor at Southern Miss, and his graduate assistant Kevin Welborn.

Despite their lack of experience, Wooton said he has been impressed with the performance of the two sections so far. "When they entered band camp, they knew that we had our work cut out, and it wasn't just going to be a walk in the park," Wooton said. "They rose to the occasion, working hard to learn street beats, fight songs and halftime shows all in a single week before the start of the semester."

The strong cohesion of the unit is evident not just in the way they encourage one another during the arduous two-hour-long drill sessions, but also in the camaraderie they share outside of practice.

All drumline members are part of Phi Boota Roota, a national fraternity dedicated to supporting percussion programs across the country. Following the namesake of their fraternity, the Southern Miss drumline have their own Phi Boota Roota intramural football team; they routinely play ultimate Frisbee as well.

"We have a really good cohesion, both on and off of the practice field," says Brown. "I guess you could say we have our own little drumline family."



Members of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band's drumline strut proudly prior to a home football game.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are subject to change and should be confirmed. Any questions regarding these events can be directed to the Southern Miss Alumni Association at alumni@usm.edu or call 601.266.5013. Please visit SouthernMissAlumni.com for the most up-to-date calendar. All events are located on the Hattiesburg campus unless otherwise noted. For information on tickets, call 601.266.5418, unless otherwise noted.

DECEMBER

21 **Southern Miss Alumni Association Bowl Bash** • Dreamland Bar-B-Q, 1427 14th Avenue, South, Birmingham, Ala. • 5 p.m.

22 **Football vs. Cincinnati, Papajohns.com Bowl** • Legion Field, Birmingham, Ala. • Noon

JANUARY

1 **Birmingham Chapter Monthly Meeting**
Applebee's, Pelham, Ala. • 6:30 p.m.

8 **Accounting Constituent Society's 2007 Income Tax Updates**
Thad Cochran Center, Hattiesburg campus • 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

12 **Alumni Association Volunteer Leadership Conference**
Thad Cochran Center, Hattiesburg campus

31 **"Future Stars"** • Students from The University of Southern Mississippi School of Music compete in the William T. Gower Competition • Bennett Auditorium, Hattiesburg campus • 7:30 p.m.

Golden Eagle/ Lady Eagle
Home Basketball Schedules

December

15 Lady Eagles vs. Birmingham-Southern • 2 p.m.
Golden Eagles vs. Alabama State • 4 p.m.
22 Golden Eagles vs. McNeese State • 4 p.m.
30 Lady Eagles vs. Houston Jaguars • 2 p.m.

January

8 Golden Eagles vs. UCF • 8 p.m.
12 Golden Eagles vs. Tulane • 4 p.m.
17 Lady Eagles vs. Rice • 7 p.m.
25 Lady Eagles vs. UCF • 7 p.m.
26 Golden Eagles vs. Rice • 4 p.m.
31 Lady Eagles vs. East Carolina • 7 p.m.

February

2 Golden Eagles vs. East Carolina • 4 p.m.
Lady Eagles vs. Marshall • 6 p.m.
5 Golden Eagles vs. UAB • 7 p.m.
7 Lady Eagles vs. Memphis • 7 p.m.
9 Lady Eagles vs. UAB • 5 p.m.
20 Golden Eagles vs. SMU • 7 p.m.
22 Lady Eagles vs. UTEP • 7 p.m.
24 Lady Eagles vs. Tulane • 2 p.m
28 Lady Eagles vs. Memphis • 7 p.m.

For complete basketball schedules, visit SouthernMiss.com.

Founding Mother:

Alumna Enjoying Active Retirement at 90

When considering the lengthy list of accomplishments of Southern Miss alumni, it would be impossible to determine which is the most notable. How exactly does Brett Favre's three NFL MVP's stack up against a No. 1 record or best-selling book by Jimmy Buffett, or a Pulitzer Prize earned by photojournalist Ted Jackson? Perhaps the easier case could be made that each is equally impressive in its own way.

That being said, neither Favre, Buffett nor Jackson can make the claim that they were instrumental in the founding of a college. However, alumna May Lewis Poetter, co-founder of the renowned Savannah College of Art and Design (SACD), in Savannah, Ga., can.

Originally from Collins, the former Willie May Lewis graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi in 1962, then went on to earn a master's degree from Emory University. An elementary education major at Southern Miss, the Life Member of the Alumni Association taught elementary school, then supervised English teachers in the Atlanta Public Schools. During her teaching career she authored two English textbooks for the Houghton Mifflin Company that were used by millions of students across the country.

In 1977, she retired, and at the same time, her husband, Paul Poetter, retired from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, where he had enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a research analyst, to take up the position of comptroller for the Savannah College of Art and Design, under development at the time.

The two initially planned to join their daughter, Paula, and son-in-law, in Savannah for a brief time to help launch the Savannah College of Art and Design in 1979 and then resume retirement in Atlanta. Instead they moved to Savannah and became an important part of the administration of the college. From its beginnings just a few decades ago, SCAD has become one of the largest specialized institutions of art and design higher education in the world. The private, nonprofit institution boasts three dozen programs of study; 9,000 students at locations in Atlanta, Savannah, online through SCAD-eLearning and at the college's European study-abroad location in Lacoste, France; and more than 1,500 full- and part-time faculty and staff.

Although now retired, the 90-year-old Poetter continues to take an active role in the life of the college, serving on the board of trustees. She is known for bringing years of experience as a

school teacher and administrator to the position of SCAD's first vice president for admission, recruiting thousands of talented students from diverse locations.

To this day, SCAD alumni remark about the profound impact Poetter and her late husband have had on their careers and lives.

"Without Mrs. Poetter's support, I would have never made it through school," said SCAD alumnus Thomas Dang Vu, who emigrated from Vietnam in 1986. "Not only was I trying to find my place as a young adult, but I was also trying to find my role as a new American. During my years at SCAD, Mrs. Poetter helped put the pieces together as my mentor, my confidant and, most importantly, my friend."

Always active in their church, both Poetters led many youth activities and taught Sunday school. May Poetter is now a member of the Skidaway Island United Methodist Church in Savannah.

In 1999, the May and Paul Poetter Scholarship was established in their honor at SCAD. The full-tuition scholarship is awarded to any student accepted to the college who achieves a perfect score on the SAT or ACT or who has achieved an unweighted cumulative grade point average of 4.0 on a 4.0 scale and scored 1470 or higher on the SAT or 33 or higher on the ACT.

The first building on the Savannah College of Art and Design's Savannah campus is named Poetter Hall, in honor of Southern Miss alumna May Lewis Poetter and her late husband, Paul Poetter. Poetter Hall currently houses the college's admission department, welcome center and shopSCAD.

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Ronald James Slay

First Football Coach, Faculty Member

By Kenneth B. Shearer '60

Ronald J. Slay was a member of the original faculty of Mississippi Normal College in 1912, and according to Alma Hickman's "Southern As I Saw It," taught science and modern languages. Professor Slay was born at or near Robeline, Sabine Parish, La., Nov. 15, 1890, but moved to Purvis in his early childhood. He attended school in Purvis and in 1912 graduated from the University of Mississippi. As was customary at the time, Slay taught for three years (1910-1912) in rural Lamar County schools as part of his degree requirements. Degree secured, he became a candidate for the faculty at the new Mississippi Normal College in nearby Hattiesburg.

Joe Cook, upon taking the Mississippi Normal presidency, recognized an exceptional young man in Slay and selected him for the first faculty in 1912.

A pioneer on the athletic fields as well as in the classroom, Slay met with 150 students to organize the Mississippi Normal Athletic Association in 1912. While Professor Slay may have been, and probably was, assigned this extra-curricular chore by President Cook, the students took to him immediately and chose him as the head of the athletic association.

While it is not known if Professor Slay had an acquaintance with football, he also became the first head football coach at Mississippi Normal and quickly organized a team that played its first game on Oct. 13, 1912. This chosen (or drafted) assignment also carried with it the position of athletic director, which he held until 1922.

The 15 volunteers for the 1912 football team proved to be only a token of the 150 athletic association members, but somehow Slay molded them into a workable unit, playing three games and winning two of them, including the institution's very first contest, a 30-0 victory over the Hattiesburg Boy Scouts at Kamper Park. Nevertheless, Slay gave up the football coaching job after one season, but retained the athletic director's job until 1922. He continued to be involved in the athletic association and coached the basketball team in 1912-1913, 1918-1919 and 1919-1920 and had records of 3-0, 5-5 and 1-2 for those three seasons. In addition, he also coached the tennis team in 1915 and had a 5-5 record.

Slay's loyalty and devotion to the school showed in many ways and, except for taking off for parts of 1914 and 1915 to study at Johns Hopkins, he was continuously involved in athletics. After the school had dropped football for the World War I years of 1917 and 1918, Slay dedicated himself to recruiting another football team for the 1919 season. He also selected a new coach, a former Ole Miss player and then Hattiesburg lawyer, Cephus Allen Anderson. A team picture shows 20 players, Anderson and one assistant, and they coached the team to a 4-1-2 record.

Professor Slay's devotion to the college's athletic association and the football team brought on innovations, like the first "training (dining) table," where the players sat together thereby building morale. The first faculty at Mississippi Normal was very close, and Slay was a critical factor in the college's development.

In 1922, Professor Slay left for Eastern North Carolina Teachers (now East Carolina University), where he stayed until retirement. In 1924, he received a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in New York and in 1928 he received a Ph.D. from Columbia.

Dr. Slay married Maggie D. Campbell of Kosciusko, who was also a member of the original Mississippi Normal faculty. They were the parents of two sons, both of whom became college professors as well.

Forrest County Hall was one of only five buildings on the Hattiesburg campus when Mississippi Normal College opened in 1912.

Cross Leaves $2.9 Million Gift to Math Department

Wright W. "Bill" Cross, an alumnus and benefactor who established the University's first endowed chair and funded one of the first scholarship programs in the department of mathematics, died July 26, 2007, at his home in Baker, La., leaving behind a gift of approximately $2.9 million to the Department of Mathematics.

The Wright W. and Annie Rea Cross Chair in Mathematics and Endowment for Undergraduate Research was established through a charitable remainder trust in 1997. Mr. Cross also established the Wright W. Cross Endowment in 1994, which provides scholarships for students in mathematics annually. To date, approximately 45 students have received a Cross scholarship.

Mr. Cross received a bachelor of science in mathematics from Southern Miss in 1951. A non-traditional student, he earned his college degree 17 years after graduating from Laurel High School. He eventually formed and managed three successful companies. In 1997, he was inducted in the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2001, Mr. Cross was recognized as a charter member of the University's Gallery of Benefactors. His wife, Annie Rea Allen Cross, now deceased, also attended Southern Miss.

"The Wright W. and Annie Rea Cross Endowed Chair in Mathematics and Endowment for Undergraduate Research represents an unparalleled opportunity for the Department of Mathematics to foster the growth of excellence in undergraduate mathematics," said Dr. C. S. Chen, chair of the Department of Mathematics. "It is important to recognize the enormous impact that his contributions have on future academic programs in the math department at Southern Miss. It can and does make a difference in helping students be able to realize their hopes and dreams."

"Mr. Cross achieved his goal of making a difference in the lives of others," said Dr. Wallace Pye, who served as chair of the math department from 1990 to 2005. "As long as there is a math department at Southern Miss and students who will study math, his gift will truly make a difference."

Just as important, according to Dr. Pye, is the philanthropic example Mr. Cross set for others. "Prior to his gift, we had very little to offer students in the way of scholarships. Now others are following his lead."

Thad Cochran Center Room Named in Honor of Gold Leaf Society

The anonymous Gold Leaf Society, a group of individuals committed to the betterment of The University of Southern Mississippi, has purchased the first naming opportunity in the Thad Cochran Center on the Hattiesburg campus.

Room 227, a boardroom equipped with a conference table, 16 conference table chairs and 14 side chairs, was officially dedicated Sept. 7 in honor of The Gold Leaf.

Although The Gold Leaf Society has been a supporter of Southern Miss for a number of years, its origin, symbolism, and membership remain a mystery. Represented by an emblem containing a gold leaf and seven stars, The Gold Leaf Society states that its mission is to work for the good of The University of Southern Mississippi.

"We don't know who they are, we probably will never know," said Southern Miss Union and Programs Director Barbara Ross. "But we thank them for their commitment to this university and for their commitment to the Thad Cochran Center."

On July 7, 2007, The Gold Leaf gave the first of seven installments totaling $25,000 for the naming opportunity in the Thad Cochran Center. Named in honor of The Gold Leaf, the room features and highlights the history and tradition of The University of Southern Mississippi. Two plaques are displayed in the room. The first features The Gold Leaf emblem, and the second dedicates the room. The Gold Leaf also requested that seven historic campus photos be displayed throughout the room.

The secretive society has given a number of mysterious gifts to the University in recent years. In November 2005, a rock bearing the emblem of The Gold Leaf appeared on the lawn of Danforth Chapel. On the occasion of the 97th anniversary of Southern Miss, The Gold Leaf selected 21 outstanding faculty and staff, each with a minimum of seven years of service to the University, to be recognized for their efforts to Southern Miss.

Each recipient received a letter, emblem and holder for the emblem to display proudly. The Gold Leaf has also given a number of other gifts to benefit the University, including the Alumni Association's Ogletree House Campaign, with each donation containing the number seven in the amount.

"Our mission is being accomplished through the making of financial and other gifts to individuals associated with the University whom we believe bring honor to the University through their work and lives," states The Gold Leaf. "Membership of The Gold Leaf is and always will remain anonymous so that the focus of the gift we bestow will be on the recipient."

University President Dr. Martha Saunders said supportive groups like The Gold Leaf Society are shining examples of what embodies Southern Miss.

"I think we all know the heart and soul of the University lies within groups like The Gold Leaf Society," she said.

Room 227 was the first naming opportunity purchased in the Thad Cochran Center. Other naming opportunities are still available. For more information on these opportunities, contact the Southern Miss Foundation at 601.266.5602 or Barbara Ross, director of the Union and Programs, at 601.266.4396.

Southern Miss President Emeritus Aubrey Lucas cuts a ribbon on the Gold Leaf Society Room in the University's Thad Cochran Center during dedication ceremonies Sept. 7. At right is President Martha Saunders.

Jewel Tucker, administrative secretary to the president at Southern Miss, poses just outside the Gold Leaf Society Room. Tucker is one of 21 Southern Miss faculty and staff who have received an award of honor from the society.

Lucas Endowment Reaches $1 Million

Faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi now have one million reasons to excel. The Aubrey Keith and Ella Ginn Lucas Faculty Excellence Endowment has exceeded $1 million. Established by The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, the Phil Harden Foundation and the Chisholm Foundation with additional gifts from countless alumni and friends of the University, the endowment provides support for faculty excellence at Southern Miss.

Honoring the legacy of Aubrey K. Lucas, who served as president of Southern Miss for 21 years, and his wife, Ella, who like her husband is a member of the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame, the Lucas Endowment continues the work of a man whose life mission has been the advocacy of academic excellence.

Faculty Excellence Grants, awarded annually by the endowment, range from $25 to $5,000, and fund a wide variety of projects. The endowment provides support for books, audiovisual materials, salary, research, travel, laboratory expenses, documents, wages and other resources. To date nearly $590,000 has been awarded in Faculty Excellence Grants.

"This is exciting news for our research enterprise," said Cecil Burge, Southern Miss' vice president for Research. "Much of our success hinges on being able to find "startup" or "seed" funds for new projects and new investigators. The Lucas Endowment can now play an even more significant role in the growth of faculty research and scholarship."

Ten Faculty Excellence Grants, totaling more than $34,000 were awarded this year. Recipients, their academic disciplines and projects include:

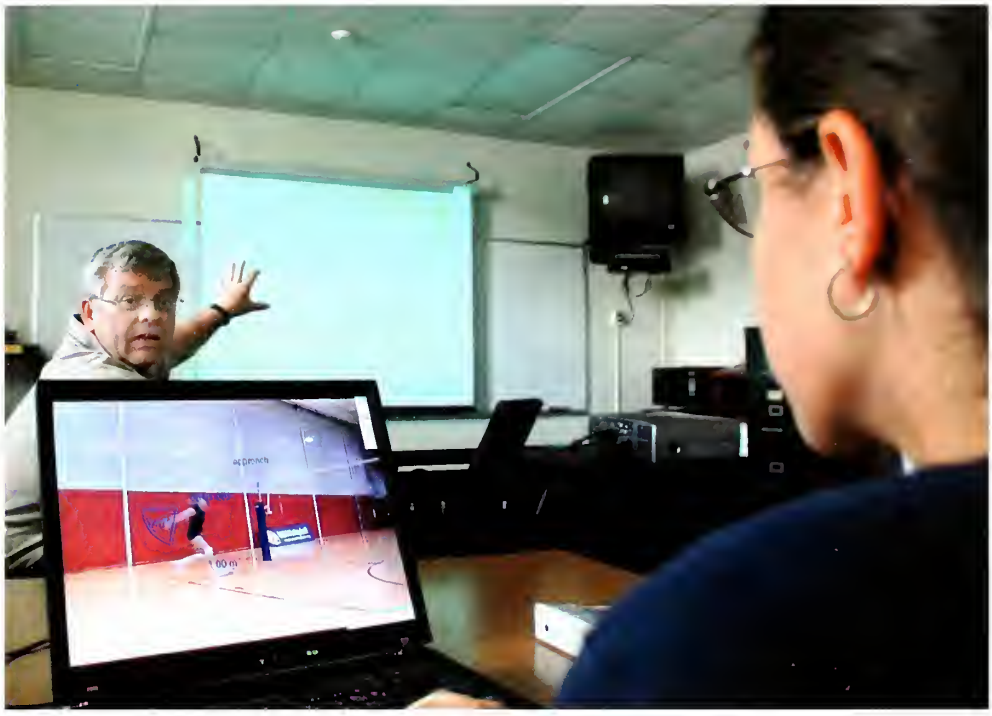
Yanlin Guo, Biological Sciences, $3,800 to study differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells to smooth muscle cells;

Gary Krebs, Human Performance and Recreation, $3,800 for the utilization of Dartfish Technology: A tool used for enhancing the analysis of human motion;

Virgil Zeigler-Hill, Psychology, $2,896 for a project titled "Fragile High Self-Esteem and Psychological Adjustment;"

Youping Deng, Biological Sciences, $3,800 for lipid profiling of breast cancer;

Dana Fennell, Anthropology and Sociology, $2,115 for a project titled "Talking About Health: People's Perceptions of Complementary and Alternative Medicine;"



Gary Krebs, left, associate professor in the School of Human Performance and Recreation, demonstrates the motion analysis software Dartfish to one of his graduate students. As a recipient of a 2007 Lucas Faculty Excellence Grant Krebs uses the program to study digital video of athletic performance in undergraduate biomechanics labs and graduate sport skills analysis classes.

Mac Alford, Biological Sciences, $3,213.60 to study ferns and fern allies in Mississippi;

Alvin Holder, Chemistry and Biochemistry, $3,800 to study the development of some novel photodynamic therapeutic agents;

Steve Yuen, Technology Education, $3,800 to integrate podcasting/vodcasting technology and a mobile web course into the Instructional Technology Curriculum;

David Cochran, Geography and Geology, $3,692 to study hurricane hazards, human response, and vulnerability among coastal peoples in the Mosquitia region of Eastern Honduras;

David Echevarria, Psychology, $3,800 for a project titled "Stress, Alcohol Consumption and Cognitive Impairments: Their Interactions and Related Biological Underpinnings."

"I have been fortunate to receive the Aubrey K. and Ella G. Lucas awards on two occasions," said Gary Krebs, clinical associate professor in the Human Performance and Recreation department. "Both projects integrated computer software into my classes. The last award provided funds to purchase additional Dartfish software licenses. To better understand how the human body moves, tools (Dartfish software) that enhance our ability to analyze, apply and evaluate are critical to learning in human performance."

"The Lucas Endowment can now play an even more significant role in the growth of faculty research and scholarship."

-Dr. Cecil Burge, Vice President for Research

In addition to the Faculty Excellence Grants, the Lucas Endowment funds annual Faculty Excellence Awards including the Lucas Endowment Award for University-wide Excellence in Teaching and the Lucas Endowment Award for University-wide Excellence in Service. the Lucas Endowment Awards for Excellence in Teaching and for Excellence in Service are also awarded annually to one of the five academic colleges. The Lucas Endowment Award for Excellence in Librarianship is awarded every other year. Each year $6,000 to $7,000 is given for Faculty Excellence Awards.

2007 Hall of Fame

The Alumni Hall of Fame was established to recognize those whose contributions of time and financial means have helped move Southern Miss forward. Nominees must have graduated 15 years previously. The induction ceremony, which annually takes place during the University's Homecoming week, was held at Southern Oaks House and Gardens in Hattiesburg. The initial class of the Hall of Fame, which now includes 214 members, was inducted in 1987. The class of 2007 includes:

Sam Clinton '54, '77, '80

Sam Clinton has made a career of both national and collegiate dedication. A former student, employee and current supporter of Southern Miss, Clinton has made valuable contributions to the success of the University.

Clinton first graduated with a bachelor's degree in math and chemistry from Mississippi Southern College in 1954 and was then commissioned to the Navy. He later returned to Hattiesburg and graduated in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. In 1980, Clinton earned a master's degree in accounting and gained status as a certified public accountant.

As a longtime staff member at Southern Miss, Clinton was employed by the University as a staff accountant, then as Bursar and Director of Business Services. He retired from Southern Miss in 1995 and practiced privately until his retirement in December of 2000.

Clinton is active in the Southern Miss and Hattiesburg communities. He is a past chairman of The University of Southern Mississippi Federal Credit Union, a past president and member of the Hattiesburg Metro Chapter of the Alumni Association, a member of the Eagle Club, Dugout Club, Hardwood Club, Southern Miss Track Officials and the USM Retirees Club.

Clinton's service, however, extends well beyond the Hub City and the Hattiesburg campus. After joining the Navy in 1954, Clinton flew in various fighter and training squadrons, and served as catapult officer on the USS Ticonderoga. In 1969 and 1970, he flew as an adversary pilot in the Top Gun school. Clinton flew more than 190 combat missions over and around Vietnam before retiring from the Navy in 1975.

Clinton and his wife, Gwendolyn '55, reside in Hattiesburg.

James Hutto '69, '74, '82

James Hutto is currently superintendent of the Petal School District, a position he has held since 1998. During his tenure, the Petal School District has added approximately 40 new classrooms, a 1,000-seat fine arts auditorium, a new middle school music and dance building, new athletic facilities, and new programs including a family support center, a computer engineering and networking course, and a senior exit project required for each graduating senior.

In 2005, Hutto was honored as the Mississippi Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Also that year, he was named Outstanding Superintendent of the Year by the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education for his contributions to arts education.

Hutto, an active member of the Alumni Association for almost four decades, is a former member of the Association's Board of Directors and Presidential Transition Team. He is a member and past president of the Mississippi Association of School Administrators, a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Development, and the American Association of School Administrators. He is published in several national journals of education including *Kaplan Journal, NASSP Bulletin* and *Educational Leadership.*

Prior to moving to Petal, Hutto was superintendent of the Poplarville School District for four years. He has been a professional educator in the State of Mississippi for 39 years as a teacher, elementary principal, high school principal and superintendent.

He and his wife, Allen, are active members of Petal Harvey Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon and teaches a Sunday school class.

Lynn McLelland '70

Lynn McLelland has shown her dedication to Southern Miss through various occupational and altruistic efforts.

A native of Bay Springs, McLelland graduated from Bay Springs High School in 1966, and later attended Jones Junior College where she received her associates' degree. She graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in business education.

The Life Member of the Alumni Association continued her support of Southern Miss as an employee, serving as senior secretary to Powell Ogletree from 1970 to 1974. She would later work for the University in a number of areas including radio, television and film; the M-Club; and Southern Miss Athletics. She currently serves as the executive assistant to Director of Athletics Richard Giannini.

As an active member of the Hattiesburg and Southern Miss communities McLelland has received multiple honors including the Alumni Association Special Service Award, Southern Miss Outstanding Young Woman, Staff Excellence Award, Jessie Morrison Award, and the H.D. "Doc" Roberts Distinguished Service Award.

She and her husband, Doug, have two children, Sarah '96, '97 and Brian '99, and one grandson, Henry Brian McLelland.

Bill Phalen '65

With an entrepreneurial spirit fostered as a student at Southern Miss, Bill Phalen has grown Phoenix-based Cities West Publishing into an enterprise that produces a pair of the best regional magazines in the country, *Phoenix* magazine and *Phoenix Home & Garden.*

He currently serves as CEO and Chairman and is the majority shareholder of the company he founded in 1997.

Prior to his latest venture, Phalen, a 34-year resident of Arizona, founded and co-founded three broadcasting companies which acquired 24 radio stations throughout the United States from 1970 through 1996. His last radio ownership interest was with Prism Radio Partners, a company he founded in 1992 with Wall Street Partner JP Morgan Bank.

Phalen holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from The University of Southern Mississippi and earned a master's degree in organizational behavior from Norwich University in Vermont. Trained as a cryptographer, he served honorably for six years in the U.S. Army and National Guard.

He is past president of the Tucson Broadcasters Association and was a member of the advisory board of the ABC Radio Network and the Walter Cronkite Endowment Board of Trustees at Arizona State University. He also served on the National Advisory Board of the Sedona Cultural Park. All told, Phalen has served on five corporate boards and has been active in charitable board work such as Junior Achievement, where he played a major role in fund drives.

Phalen is a Life Member of the Alumni Association and a Major Gift Level donor to the Ogletree House Campaign. The courtyard in the new facility will be named in his honor.

Phalen and his wife, Maibritt, reside in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tom Potter '64

Tom Potter has been committed to the success of Southern Miss since receiving his degree in business administration in 1964.

Potter has served as a member of The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association and Foundation boards, vice president of the Alumni Association and president of several alumni chapters. He is a Life Member of the Association and an Eagle Club member.

A former member of the Alumni Association Traditions Committee, Potter has received the Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award, Continuous Service and Meritorious Service Awards.

During his time at Southern Miss, Potter received U.S. Army commission as 2nd Lieutenant, Armor Branch, through the Southern Miss ROTC program and served two years on active duty. He would ultimately attain the rank of major in the United States Army Reserves.

Upon receipt of his BSBA degree from Southern Miss, Potter attended banking schools at the University of Colorado, Vanderbilt University and the University of Memphis. He currently holds securities and insurance licenses and has more than 33 years experience in the banking industry. He currently serves as vice president of commercial lending for Trustmark National Bank.

Active in community organizations as well, Potter's current and past involvement include the Greater Knoxville Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, the Dogwood Arts Festival board, Rotary Club of Atlanta, Ga., Rotary Club of Jackson, and the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg, where he served on the board of directors.

Potter and his wife, Paula Briede Potter, have four children and eight grandchildren. They are members of St. Thomas Catholic Church of Hattiesburg where he serves as a lector, commentator and chairman of the finance committee.

Jon Mark Weathers '70

A life-long resident of Hattiesburg, Jon Mark Weathers' contributions to the community and The University of Southern Mississippi are extensive.

After earning a degree from Southern Miss in 1970, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi in 1972, Weathers was an attorney in private practice from 1972 to 1976 and again from 1980 to 2003. He was district attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit Court District from 1976 to 1980 and spent his last 15 years of private practice as a shareholder in Bryan, Nelson, Randolph & Weathers PA. In 2003, he was re-appointed district attorney of the 12th Judicial Circuit Court District and currently serves as the vice president of the Mississippi Prosecutors Association and is a member of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Standards and Training Board.

Weathers has served as a past bar commissioner for the Mississippi State Bar representing the 12th Circuit Court District, past chair of the Litigation section and current chair of the Prosecutors section. He is a current member of the Mississippi Bar Association, the South Central Bar Association, American Bar Association and the Bar Association of the Federal 5th Circuit.

Weathers is an active member of the Southern Miss community, involved in The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation Honor Club, the Eagle Club, the Partners for the Arts and the Southern Miss 100. He is a Life Member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

Weathers is a member of the Hattiesburg Civic Association and an active member of Temple Baptist Church serving as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.

He and his wife, Peggy Conerly Weathers '73, have two sons, Jon Jason '97 and Bradley Keith '03, and three grandchildren Bailey, Anna Lea and Jon Brent.

Clarence Weatherspoon '93

Of all Southern Miss alumni to advance to basketball's highest level, no other has attained the status of Clarence Weatherspoon. The Crawford native started for the Golden Eagles from 1988 to 1992, and his number "35" was retired during his final home game of the 1991-1992 season.

During his college career, he was named Metro Conference Player of the Year three times consecutively, and his Golden Eagle teams made two NCAA Tournament appearances. He finished his career as the school's all-time leader in rebounding (1,320) and blocked shots (227) and is second on the career scoring list (2,130 points) to another Southern Miss great, Nick Revon. He graduated with a degree in business administration in 1993.

A Life Member of the Alumni Association, Weatherspoon is also a member of the Hardwood Club and the Eagle Club. He was featured on billboards promoting the Alumni Association with fellow alumni Brett Favre, Jimmy Buffett, Lou Ann Poynter and others. He is also involved with the Easter Seals Foundation. Weatherspoon was inducted into the M-Club Hall of Fame in April 2006.

Weatherspoon was drafted as a first round pick in 1992 by the Philadelphia 76ers. He played six seasons with the 76ers and set a franchise record for most points by a rookie. Weatherspoon's professional career also included two seasons each with the Miami Heat and Houston Rockets and one season each in Cleveland, Golden State and New York.

In his 13-year career he pulled down a total of 6,724 rebounds and scored 10,300 points.

Weatherspoon, who is one of 13 children, resides in Madison with his wife, Hazel, and their children, Clay and Simone.

The University of Southern Mississippi

Alumni Association AWARD WINNERS

1910 SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 20,000 in 2010

Two Thousand and Seven

Each year at Homecoming, the Alumni Association presents awards in six categories to alumni and friends of the University in an effort to recognize volunteer excellence in service to Southern Miss and the Alumni Association. Awards presented include:

Outstanding Service Award
given to alumni based on their service to the University;

Continuous Service Award
given to alumni for their long-term efforts and dedication to Southern Miss;

Special Service Award
given to individuals, not necessarily alumni, who have made a significant, unique contribution to the University, community or their profession;

Outstanding Young Alumnus / Alumna Award
given to one alum 36 years of age or younger who has made contributions of time and effort to the University, community and their profession;

Meritorious Service Award
given to one alum who has continued to give of their time and talents throughout the years to recognize outstanding alumni support, professional achievement, loyalty and service to the University, and

Friend of Southern Miss Award
given to one individual who is not an alum, but has contributed greatly to the progress of Southern Miss throughout the years.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Angie Cognevich '92, '94

Angie Cognevich is the manager of the Southeast Regional Office for the Mississippi Development Authority in Hattiesburg.

She currently serves Southern Miss in various capacities including as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, director for the Southern Miss Eagle Club and a board member of the Southern Miss Laurel Metro Alumni Chapter. She also serves on the Curriculum Committee for the Southern Miss New South Economic Development Basic Course.

Cognevich is a former board member of the Mississippi Economic Development Council and secretary-treasurer of the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) in 2006. She will become the chair of SEDC in 2009, becoming the third female in the 60-year history of the organization to hold this position.

Cognevich is involved in the Habitat for Humanity Women Build project in Hattiesburg. She resides in Hattiesburg and enjoys spending time with her 2-year-old granddaughter, Caylee.

Todd Gremillion '00

Todd Gremillion received a bachelor's degree in public relations from Southern Miss in 2000. The resident of Metairie, La., has been a driving force behind the revitalization of the NOLA Alumni Chapter since Hurricane Katrina.

He is currently serving as president of the NOLA Chapter and is an Eagle Club member. Gremillion created and designed the logo for the New Orleans Chapter's apparel. He is also a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon alumni board.

Since working with the NOLA Chapter, Gremillion has orchestrated Southern Miss family day at Audubon Park, Christmas Party at The Bulldog on Canal Street, and a dinner and silent auction held at Chop's Bistro, with guest alumni speakers Gus Kattengell and Ted Jackson.

Currently employed as an account manager with Coca-Cola, Gremillion is an active community member.

Reggie Houze '00

Dr. Reginald M. Houze's '00 contributions to Southern Miss music have made a memorable impact on the University. He is currently a professor and band director at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

A former director of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band, Houze was a member of the Alumni Association's Traditions Committee, director of Admissions Search Committee and a member of Cochran Center Opening Committee. Houze also led the Pride's performances for the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field in 2006.

Professionally Houze has received honors including being named a Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Fellow, a member of the College Band Directors National Association and the National Band Association

Houze and his wife, Sheladia Kidd Houze '02, reside in San Angelo, Texas.

Troy Johnston '95, '97

Troy Johnston '95, '97, is currently employed as an attorney with Harris Jernigan & Geno, PLLC of Ridgeland.

Johnston received his bachelor's degree in 1995 and an MBA in 1997 from Southern Miss. He received his law degree from Mississippi College in 2003.

He is a past president of the Central MS Alumni Chapter and currently serves as a board member for the chapter. Johnston is a charter member and executive board member of Juris Sodalitas, the legal constituent society of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. He is also a member of the Alumni Association's Traditions Committee and the Eagle Club.

Johnston is an active community member and a patron of First Baptist Church of Jackson. He and his wife, Erin Aultman Johnston '97, reside in Jackson. They have one daughter, Caroline Rose.

Rickey Jones '92

Rickey Jones '92 is currently a mortgage consultant with Lender's Choice Mortgage in Hattiesburg. He received his bachelor's degree in sports management and then went on to the University of Mississippi School of Banking.

He is a member of the Eagle Club, and serves

on the Southern Miss Athletic Council. Jones has served on Association's Publications Board, Board of Directors, and is a board member for The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation.

The Jackson native serves as an ambassador with the Area Development Partnership and is an active member with the United Way. Jones also serves as the treasurer and trustee at Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church.

Scott Lanehart '99

Scott Lanehart '99 is project manager with Lanehart Incorporated, a commercial painting venture based in Louisiana. He is an active member of Forum 35, a Baton Rouge-based leadership organization.

Lanehart received his bachelor's degree in speech communication in 1999. While at Southern Miss he was a member of student government, Sigma Chi Fraternity, Inter-Fraternity Council and Southern Style.

Lanehart is a Life Member of the Alumni Association and an Eagle Club member. A former Baton Rouge Chapter president, he currently serves as chairman of the board and scholarship development.

Lanehart and his wife, Andrea '99, have two children Lindsey, 5, and Charlie, 1. They attend St. George Catholic Church.

Lance LeFan '93

Lance LeFan received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from The University of Southern Mississippi in 1993. While at Southern Miss, LeFan was a member and president of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

LeFan currently serves as vice president of the South Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter. He has been the silent auction coordinator for Golden Eagle Fanfare for the past four years, raising approximately $15,000 for scholarships. LeFan is a member of the Eagle Club, Wings and the Association's Traditions Committee.

The Hattiesburg native has been employed by Mississippi Farm Bureau Insurance Company where he is a member for the special investigations unit. He also serves in the Mississippi Army National Guard as a combat engineer.

At press time in November, LeFan and his wife, Karla, were expecting twins.

CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARD

Phil Bryant '77

Phil Bryant '77 currently serves the state at Mississippi's state auditor and is Mississippi's lieutenant governor-elect.

Prior to becoming state auditor, Bryant served five years as a member of the House of Representatives, where he was vice chairman of the Insurance Committee and authored the Capital Gains Tax Cut Act of 1992.

He is a member of The University of Southern Mississippi's Alumni Hall of Fame and was named Hinds Community College's Alumnus of the Year.

Bryant is a principal member of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers; a member of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action and is a past president of the Mississippi Republican Elected Officials Association. He received a federal appointment by the United States Secretary of Treasury to serve on the U.S. Taxpayers Advocacy Panel.

Bryant and his wife, Deborah Hays Bryant, currently reside in Jackson. They have two children, Katie '06 and Patrick. They are active members of St. Marks United Methodist Church.

Rex Kelly '80

A retired Mississippi Power executive, Rex Kelly '80 has put an abundance of energy into enhancing his home state and his alma mater.

Kelly has served Southern Miss in many capacities including vice president, president-elect, president and past president of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. He currently serves as a member of the USM Foundation's board. He is also an honor club member of the USM Foundation.

Kelly is a former co-chairman of the Alumni Association's Presidential Transition Team, a member of the Eagle Club and the Ogletree Campaign Committee. He is a member of the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame.

Kelly has amassed an impressive record of professional and community service. He was named a Top Ten Community Leader for South Mississippi in 2003 and is a member of the Roland Weeks Leadership Hall of Fame. He serves as a member of the Mississippi Economic Council Board of Governors and the M.B. Swayze Foundation Board of Directors. Kelly is also a director of Peoples Financial Corporation and the Peoples Bank of Biloxi. He is a past president of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

Rex and his wife, Rebecca Chancellor Kelly, currently reside in Gulfport. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Gene Klos '72

Gene Klos '72 is the southern region account manager for the Nolan Power Group. Born in Chicago, Ill., this transplanted northerner now resides in Pensacola, Fla.

Klos served as president of the Pensacola Alumni Chapter in 1997 and 1998. He is currently a board member of the Pensacola Chapter, district director of the Southern Miss Eagle Club for Northwest Florida and a Life Member of the Alumni Association. Klos received the award for Outstanding Alumni Service in 1999.

Gene is married to the former Sharon Champlin of Brandon. They have two daughters, Kimberly and Kristin.

Mike Ratliff '78

After graduating magna cum laude from Southern Miss, Mike Ratliff '78 received his juris doctorate degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981. He has practiced law in Hattiesburg since 1981 and is partner in the firm of Johnson, Hall & Ratliff.

Ratliff is a member of the Eagle Club, the Alumni Association's Bylaws Committee and Association's Legal Society, Juris Sodalitas. He also is a member of several professional organizations, including the Mississippi State Bar, South Central Mississippi Bar Association, American Bar Association and American Trial Lawyers Association.

Ratliff is a life member of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. He is a former president of the club, served as chairman of its district conference in 1997 and was District 6840's assistant governor from 1997 to 2001. He is an inaugural member of the Area Development Partnership's Leaders for a New Century (1989), serving as co-chair (1993-

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association AWARD WINNERS

94, 1999-2000, 2003-04) and participating on the steering committee (1990-2005). He received the ADP's Service Award in 2000.

Ratliff belongs to University Baptist Church where he is a deacon. He is chairman of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service.

Charles Thomas '55

A native of Laurel, Charles Thomas graduated from Southern Miss in 1955 and retired as vice president of operations for the Sunbeam Corporation in 1995.

Thomas is a Life Member of the Alumni Association and a member and former chairman of the advisory board for Southern Miss Partners for the Arts. Thomas is a member of Parkway Heights and has served on the community board for BancorpSouth for the past 12 years.

An avid musician, Thomas has a passion for the arts and continues to support the arts through Southern Miss. He and his wife, Diane, have three sons, Charles Jr. '86, Robert '89 and David. They have four grandchildren.

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

Lamar Reynolds '66

A Life Member of the Alumni Association Lamar Reynolds '66 is a faithful supporter of Southern Miss athletics. Most notably, he attended 230 consecutive Southern Miss football games from 1981 to 2001. He is a member of Wings, the Dugout Club and the Southern Miss Hardwood Club.

Reynolds is a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, inducted in 1994. He received the Outstanding Service Award from the Association in 1989 and the Continuous Service Award in 2000. He has been a member of the Alumni Traditions Committee and has served as president, vice president and treasurer of the Jackson Big Gold Club as well as an Eagle Club district director.

Reynolds worked with St. Paul Companies for a number of years before he became a claims manager for the State of Mississippi. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and is a member of the Commiskey-Wheat Detachment of Marine Corps League.

He and his wife Janet reside in Hattiesburg. They have two daughters, Jackie and Amy.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Mick Bullock '03

Mick Bullock '03 most recently served as the director of Communications and Scheduling for the Phil Bryant for Mississippi Lt. Governor Campaign. He was formerly the executive to Mississippi State Auditor Phil Bryant and legislative liaison.

Bullock received his bachelor's degree in communications from The University of Southern Mississippi and was awarded a master's degree in business management from Belhaven College in Jackson.

A Life Member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, Bullock has served as a board member for the Jackson Metro Alumni Chapter and a Southern Miss Foundation Honor Club Member. Bullock also serves on the advisory council for the Southern Miss College of Arts and Letters.

FRIEND OF SOUTHERN MISS AWARD

Jim Bean

Jim Bean is an exceptional friend to The University of Southern Mississippi and has made invaluable contributions to its success for many years.

Bean served his country as a member of the US Air Force from 1951 to 1955. He continued his public service as a member of the Mississippi State Senate from 1984 to 1995. During his legislative career on the state level Bean served as chairman of the Senate Insurance and Health and Welfare Committees.

Bean's contributions to Southern Miss include the authorization of four-year degree programs at the Gulf Park Campus and securing 11 years of state funding for the Mississippi Polymer Institute.

He is a member of the Eagle Club and a former recipient of the Hub Award.

Bean and his wife, Peggy, reside in Hattiesburg. They have two children Jamie '78 and Skip.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Aubrey Lucas '55, '56

Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas '55, '56 is president emeritus and professor of Higher Education at The University of Southern Mississippi, where he served for 22 years as president. Lucas is a Life Member of the Alumni Association and a member of the Eagle Club.

Lucas, a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame and co-chair of the Ogletree House Campaign, has garnered professional and community recognition for his many years of service. He is a former chairman of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Lucas served as chair of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art Board of Trustees, chair of the Hattiesburg Salvation Army Advisory Board, chair of the Mississippi Arts Commission, chair of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and has served on the Mississippi Humanities Council.

He currently serves as the Lay Leader for the Mississippi Methodist Conference, has served on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Lucas is a former board member of Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Lucas and his wife, Ella, who is also a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, have four children and eight grandchildren.

Ogletree House to Feature Viking Range Equipment

When Ralph Simmons made one of the first commitments to the Southern Miss Alumni Association's $3 million Ogletree House Campaign more than two years ago, he did so with full confidence that the expanded and restored alumni house would represent an impressive and inviting home away from home for the institution's alumni on the Hattiesburg campus.

As a result of his gift, one of the most prominent rooms in the new facility, the kitchen, will be named in his and his mother's honor. However, the Linnie Cockrell Simmons and Ralph T. Simmons Kitchen has received another functional and aesthetic boost, as the Alumni Association has announced that the facility will feature Viking Range Corporation kitchen appliances.

"I wanted to honor my mother, and many of my fondest memories of my mother are of her cooking," said Simmons of his gift and mother, who is deceased. "She would have loved to cook on a beautiful, new Viking range."

In all, the Greenwood-based company will participate with the Southern Miss Alumni Association in helping to provide approximately $30,000 in kitchen equipment for the restored and expanded facility, which will continue to house the operations of the Alumni Association. The appliances include a 48-inch wide refrigerator, a 48-inch wide gas range top, a 53-inch wide outdoor gas grill, a 36-inch wide electric double oven and more. In addition, B & S Commercial Kitchen Appliances of Hattiesburg will donate its services installing the appliances.

"As a Mississippi company, we are very pleased that the Ogletree House will feature Viking kitchen equipment," said Dale Pearsons, vice president of Corporate Development for the Viking Range Corporation. "Viking does not see the kitchen as a collection of products, but a complete cooking environment. We are proud to be associated with the University just as we are proud to be associated with one of its prominent alumni, Iron Chef Cat Cora."

"We are proud to be associated with the University just as we are proud to be associated with one of its prominent alumni, Iron Chef Cat Cora."

- Dale Pearsons, Viking Range Corporation

Notably, Viking equipment is already featured in the University President's home as well as in each building of The Village, the newest female residence complex on the Hattiesburg campus. In addition, Cora counts her Viking range and grill as one of her top 10 culinary secrets.

The Alumni Association welcomed Viking executives to the Hattiesburg campus on Oct. 9 in conjunction with Cora's scheduled visit as part of the University Fall Forum Series.

With more than 1,500 employees, Viking Range now operates four manufacturing plants and a distribution center in Greenwood. Viking's growth has led the revitalization of Greenwood's downtown area, with the Viking offices spread between more than 20 buildings, most of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Best known for its ranges, Viking now produces all appliances for both indoor and outdoor kitchens.

"It is a natural fit that the Simmons Kitchen will feature Viking Range appliances," said Bob Pierce, executive director of the Alumni Association. "The University of Southern Mississippi and Viking have enjoyed an outstanding relationship for a number of years, and with the help of former Alumni Association presidents Luke Schissel and Robert Ingram we were able to ensure that this relationship was extended to the Ogletree House."

Alumnus Ralph Simmons, left, and University President Dr. Martha Saunders pose before the Viking range at the president's home in Hattiesburg. The restored and expanded Ogletree House's Simmons Kitchen will also feature Viking Range Corporation appliances.

The Ogletree House was originally built as the president's home for Mississippi Normal College. At a cost of $18,000, it was opened in 1912 and is one of the five original buildings on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. The building served as the home for the first five presidents of the institution until 1975.

In 1976, the Alumni Association, utilizing a campaign chaired by Hattiesburg physician Lamar Gillespie and with the faithful service of then-Alumni Director Powell Ogletree, launched an effort to raise $200,000 to build a new home for the University's president. Given that the Alumni Association would generate the funding for a new president's home, the University allocated the existing structure to the Alumni Association for use as the new Alumni House.

On August 20, 1987, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, commonly known as the College Board, approved a request from then-Southern Miss President Aubrey K. Lucas to have the facility named the Ogletree House in honor Ogletree, who had announced his retirement from the University effective October 31, 1987.

The Alumni Association has announced that the new Ogletree House will feature Viking Range Corporation kitchen appliances. Pictured from left are Alumni Association past presidents Robert Ingram and Luke Schissel; Iron Chef and Southern Miss alumna Cat Cora; University President Dr. Martha Saunders; and Viking Range's Bill Crump, Dale Pearsons and Etta Strick and.

Law Fellowship Honors Judge Lee as Distinguished Public Servant

A University of Southern Mississippi organization established to promote interest in careers in the legal profession has honored Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge L. Joseph Lee as the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Public Servant Award.

Juris Sodalitas, a law fellowship at The University of Southern Mississippi and a constituent society of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, presented the award to Judge Lee on July 13 at a reception at the Mississippi Bar Convention in Destin, Fla. Juris Sodalitas Chairman Jim Warren, a Jackson attorney, made the presentation.

Judge Lee, who has served on the Court of Appeals since January 1999 and as a Presiding Judge since 2004, said he was truly honored to receive the award.

Dean Denise von Herrmann of the College of Arts and Letters, who attended the reception and award presentation, said, "Our university is fortunate to have so many alumni now serving as judges, district attorneys and lawyers. We are thrilled to recognize an alumnus of Judge Lee's quality and high reputation."

Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice James W. Smith Jr., a Southern Miss alumnus, was the first recipient of the Juris Sodalitas Distinguished Public Servant Award in 2006.

Juris Sodalitas' purpose is to promote interest in careers in law and provide scholarships for students who wish to pursue law degrees after graduation from The University of Southern Mississippi.

Judge Lee has shared his experience and promoted the legal profession by mentoring students in both of Mississippi's law schools and by serving as a judge to moot court teams. He also taught business law as an adjunct professor at the Gulfport campus of William Carey College for four years.

Judge Lee attended The University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey College. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from William Carey College in 1969. He is a 1973 graduate of the former Jackson School of Law, now the Mississippi College School of Law. The Mississippi College School of Law named Judge Lee as Lawyer of the Year in 2004.

He worked as a high school teacher and principal while attending law classes at night. He began practicing law in 1973.

He is the former owner of Baldwin-Lee Funeral Homes in Jackson and Pearl.

Judge Lee was born in Poplarville in Pearl River County and grew up in Lamar County, where he attended Purvis and Lumberton schools.

Judge Joe Lee, center, has been honored by Juris Sodalitas, the Alumni Association's Law Constituent Society, for public service. Judge Lee, who was part of a three-judge panel of the Mississippi Court of Appeals to hear arguments in two cases at the Thad Cochran Center earlier this year, attended Southern Miss.

New Life Members, Fall 2007

Linda M. Allbritton
Stacey Fountain Allman
Nathaniel Anderson, Jr.
John William Atherton
Pamela Meeks Baswell
Lauren Michele Boutwell
Chris & Lisa Bowen
Earl E. Caswell, III
James & Lorrie Clark
Reggie Collier
Mathew & Terra Cox
Alonzo Crosby, Jr.
Misty Lane Dickerson
Scott Edward Dixon
Chad & Katherine Driskell
Shelly Stevens Foster
Anthony & Kimberly Griffith
John & Lillian Guillot
Keven G. Haddox
William Keith Harris
Nancy Smith Head
Laurie Mathes Hoerner
Donna Marie Howell
Michael Anthony Hughes
Debrah J. Hussey
Karen Collins Irby
Lindsey Katherine Jack
Ronald W. Jackson, Sr.
Mark A. Johnsen
Rodney F. Karns
Karlene D. Koch
Robert T. Kurzweg
Christopher A. Lavizzo
Timothy Dodd Lee
Serena Dawn LoConte
Sue Ann London
Donna L. Martin
Amiee Denise Mathis
Isaac Hardee May
Gabriel & Elizabeth McCrary
Kelly Renee McGill
Stephen & Marcia Meyers
Amanda D. Miller
Eugene Turner Mock
John & Laurie Moorhead
Corley & Robin Morse
Kristi L. Motter
Glen & Sandra Murphy
Keith & Lindsay Mustain
Tyrone Nix
Celeste & Danny O'Keefe
David & Amy Owens
Carlton "Corky" Palmer
Deborah Broyles Pardue
Dana & Sandra Parsons
Frank & Robbie Pinkerton
Frank Winters Raises
Christopher Scott Rankin
Jo Ellen Reid
David P. Rumbarger, Jr.
Michael & Ellen Sackman
Lana F. Sandifer
Rita Rose R. Sant'Angelo
Thomas C. Schmidt
Michael S. Skelton
Lisa Slay
Laura Jean Smith
(in memoriam)
Aaron Shay Thigpen
Thomas W. Thompson
Martha & Tommy Thornton
J. Carlos Tolosa
Janice Fortenberry Vannatta
Dr. Karen Hunt Varnado
Bradley Edward Ward
Sarah J. Williams
Wendy Elizabeth Winter

South Mississippi-area and Southern Miss alumni legislators were among those who gathered at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center for a reception honoring Mississippi's lieutenant governor-elect, Phil Bryant '77, hosted by the Alumni Association in November. Pictured are Rep. Harvey Fillingane, Rep.-elect Larry Byrd, Rep.-elect Toby Barker '04, '06, Rep. Stephen Palazzo '94, '96, Bryant, University President Dr. Martha Saunders '69, Sen.-elect Michael Watson, Sen.-elect Billy Hudson, Sen. Joey Fillingane '94 and Sen. Billy Hewes '85.

Manager of Constituent Relations Named

Ryan Kelly '05 has been hired as the Association's manager for constituent relations. Kelly serves a dual role for the Association as the primary field representative and as advisor for The Legacy Student Alumni Association. He maintains relationships with the individual chapter presidents, alumni ambassadors and constituent society officers and coordinates the calendar of external events of the Association. As The Legacy's advisor, Kelly oversees programming and manages The Legacy's budget.

A native of Clinton, Kelly received his undergraduate degree in biological sciences. During his time at Southern Miss he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, the Student Government Association, the Honors College and The Legacy. He and his wife, Jennifer '04, reside in Hattiesburg.

Accounting Constituent Society Offers Education Opportunity

The Southern Miss Alumni Association Accounting Constituent Society and the School of Accountancy and Information Systems will hold a 2007 Income Tax Update workshop on January 8, 2008.

Located in the Thad Cochran Center Ballroom, the event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is designed to update attendees on the changes and updates to the 2007 Income Tax system. The cost is $100 per person and is worth eight CPE hours. The seminar will be led by Southern Miss alumni Mary Anderson '02, John Brown '74, '75 and William Kelly '78.

Anderson is an assistant professor of accountancy at Southern Miss, with specialties in tax and financial accounting. She received her bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, her master's degree from Southern Miss and her doctoral degree from Louisiana Tech University.

Anderson has published articles in professional journals including *The Journal of Applied Business Research*, the *CPA Journal* and *Practical Tax Strategies*. She is a member of the American Accounting Association, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Brown is an instructor and coordinator of the accounting internship program at the Gulf Park campus. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Miss.

Brown is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, Mississippi Society of CPAs, and is an educator associate member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He has served as a member of the board of governors and as president of the Southwest Chapter of the Mississippi Society of CPAs. Brown has been published in *Tax Notes*, a national publication of tax analysts.

William T. Kelly is a partner with Nicholson and Company, Certified Public Accountants. His primary focus of current practice is business valuation, and accounting and auditing quality control.

Kelly received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern Miss. He is a member of several organizations including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Business Appraisers, the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts and an associate member of the American Society of Appraisers.

For more information regarding the seminar and registration contact Ryan Kelly at Michael.Kelly@usm.edu or call 601.266.5357.

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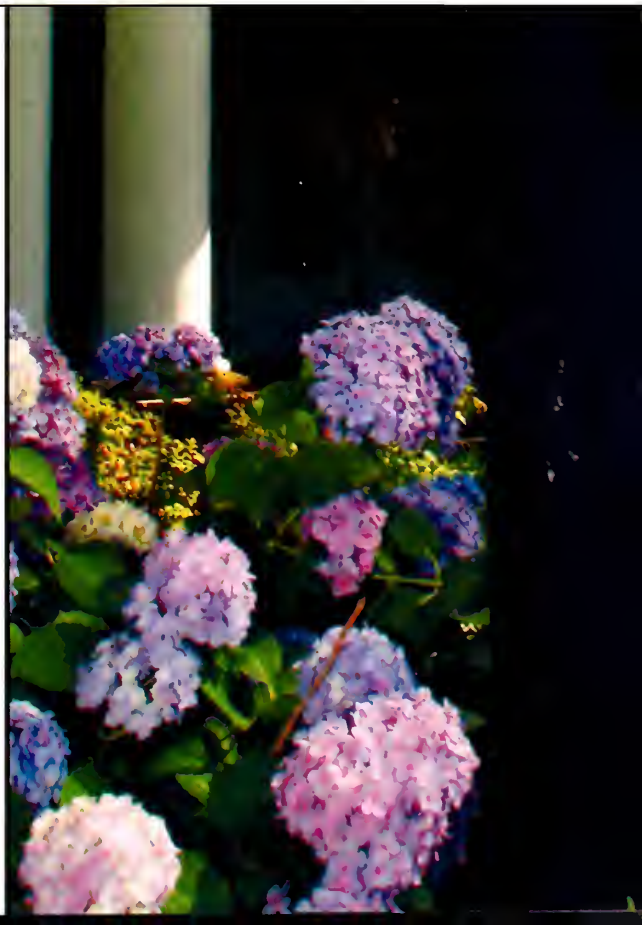
20,000 in 2010

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association

Annual Report | 2006-2007



Tradition | Pride | Loyalty | Excellence

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ASSOCIATION
20,000 in 2010

Southern Miss Alumni Association

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Martha Thornton, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Arnie Williams, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Reed Allison, Gulfport, Mississippi
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Emile Dieth, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

President of the Athletic Foundation
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President of The Legacy
Brandy Strahan, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Message From the PRESIDENT

During the period of the 2006-2007 fiscal year and the five months since, I have given a great deal of thought to the Alumni Association's motto, "Tradition. Pride. Loyalty. Excellence." As University and Alumni Association events have occurred and accomplishments have been reached, I am consistently reminded of how proud I am to be a Southern Miss alumna. In 2006-2007, we welcomed a new University president, Dr. Martha Saunders. The University reopened the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach and the IHL Board announced the Cross Creek site as the location of an additional campus on the Gulf Coast. The accomplishments of our students and faculty in the classroom, our athletes and coaches on the playing fields, and our performers in the theaters have added to a legacy of success at Southern Miss. While there are always challenges to be faced, the volunteer leadership and staff of the Southern Miss Alumni Association have continued to work in the best interests of our alumni and our University as a whole.

We have accomplished much over the past 17 months, and we have even more planned for the two and a half years that will lead us to the Centennial Anniversary of the University in 2010. While I cannot cover all of these initiatives here, I would like to highlight a few, for there is much for which we should be proud.

- The Campaign for the Restoration and Expansion of the Ogletree House has made significant progress this past year. In 2006 at Homecoming, we announced that we had surpassed 60 percent of our $3 million goal with $1.8 million committed to this important project. I am proud to share with you that we are now well past the $2.9 million mark. In addition, you can expect the construction phase of the project to begin early in 2008. We are all excited to see this new and improved facility become a reality.
- One of the Alumni Association's most significant initiatives last year was the work of the Presidential Transition Team. This group, appointed by Danny Mitchell in May 2006 and co-chaired by Phil Bryant and Rex Kelly, took a lead role in assisting the state College Board in its search process for our new University president. The efforts of the Presidential Transition Team contributed to the open communication around the process and helped paint a clear picture of what the University constituents wanted in its new president. I had the honor of serving on the Campus Search Advisory Committee for the official search process, and I am sure you will join me in agreeing that we found a great president in Dr. Martha Saunders.
- The Alumni Association worked with Marketing and Public Relations Director Margie Jepson and Dr. Shelby Thames to hire Jennifer Payne as the University's Centennial Celebration Coordinator. Jennifer has been working at the University since late June and the Centennial Committee, appointed by Dr. Saunders, has begun its work. The committee is co-chaired by Dr. Alvin Williams of the College of Business and by former Alumni Association President Rex Kelly. Dr. Aubrey Lucas is serving as the Honorary Chair.
- With membership of approximately 16,600 alumni in 2006-2007 we have a participation percentage of approximately 19 percent which places us on par with other national universities. We now have more than 4,000 Life Members, and the Association is in sound financial shape.
- In the new year, you can look forward to the initiation of the 20,000 in 2010 membership campaign whereby we will attempt to grow our membership of 16,600 to more than 20,000 by the time the University celebrates its Centennial on March 30, 2010. This will be the first-ever multi-year membership campaign in the Association's history.

As you can see, the Association is growing and making an impact on our beloved Alma Mater. Let me remind you that we can continue this progress only with your continued support and involvement.

Southern Miss to the Top!

Lou Ann Poynter '70, '71
President

ALUMNI: Looking to the Centennial

2010...20,000...12,000 – the numbers are adding up for the Southern Miss Alumni Association. Founded in 1910, Southern Miss will mark its 100-year anniversary in 2010. In time for centennial celebrations, the Southern Miss Alumni Association aims to claim 20,000 members. After proposed renovations and expansion of Ogletree House, the 95-year-old building will encompass more than 12,000 square feet.

Alumni Association Executive Director Bob Pierce says the sum of those numbers equals an organization that will be bigger, stronger and better able to serve The University of Southern Mississippi.

"Our board of directors has set an ambitious path to success for our organization, and our dedicated volunteers and staff are aggressively working toward the goals the board has outlined," Pierce said. "While we will certainly focus on a few key items, we'll also continue to diligently pursue improvement in our operations across the board."

The key items, Pierce says, include the Ogletree House construction project; the kick-off of a comprehensive, three-year membership campaign titled "20,000 in 2010;" the expansion and refinement of affinity partnership offerings; the continued development of the Southern Miss 100, a statewide network of successful alumni who serve as advocates for the University; and a leadership role in the planning and execution of the Centennial Celebration of 2010.

In 2007-2008, an executive committee led by president Lou Ann Poynter of Hattiesburg is guiding the Association's efforts to meet its goals.

"The Southern Miss Alumni Association has been fortunate to have been led by a group of outstanding volunteers who are not only willing to serve but are infinitely qualified to provide the vision for a strategic path of action for the organization," Pierce said.

"Among those tremendous volunteers, Lou Ann Poynter is no exception. She, along with Dr. Aubrey Lucas, has ably led our Ogletree House Campaign fund-raising efforts and this past year has been a valuable member of the executive committee as president-elect. Undoubtedly, the Alumni Association will continue to reap the benefits of her outstanding service during her year as president."

Joining Poynter on the executive committee are: Jim Payne of Ridgeland, president-elect; Curt Hébert of Mandeville, La., vice president; Rosemary Aultman of Clinton, past president, and Morgan McCarty of Hattiesburg, finance committee chair. New members to the board of directors include: Reed Allison, John Atherton and Dave Estorge, all of Gulfport; Mike Chancellor of Laurel; Max Draughn of Madison, and Ché Helfrich and Andy Mercier, both of Hattiesburg.

Along with the returning members of the board, these volunteers will lead the Association in serving the University and boosting the membership roll. In 2007, University president Dr. Martha D. Saunders and entertainer Jimmy Buffet became two of the Association's newest Life Members, a group that now numbers more than 4,000 alumni. With more than 16,500 members from all 50 states and numerous foreign countries, Southern Miss Alumni Association is well on its way to surpassing the number 20,000 by 2010.

Did You KNOW?

The Legacy Scholars Program awarded six $1,000 scholarships to children and grandchildren of Southern Miss alumni in 2007. The program is funded primarily through money raised at the Shell Finish Line/ Southern Miss Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament.

Below: The inductees to the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame in 2007 included Dr. James Hutto, Bill Phalen, Sam Clinton, Lynn McLelland, Jon Mark Weathers, Tom Potter and Clarence Weatherspoon. The Alumni Hall of Fame was established to recognize those whose contributions and time and financial means have helped move Southern Miss forward. The induction ceremony annually takes place during the University's Homecoming festivities. The initial class of the Hall of Fame, which now includes 214 members, was inducted in 1987.

1910
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20,000 in 2010

Association Eyes 20,000-Member Mark

Already on par with similar organizations across the country in terms of active participation, the Alumni Association is embarking on a strategic effort to increase its membership roll to 20,000 alumni and friends by The University of Southern Mississippi's Centennial Celebration in 2010.

The "20,000 in 2010" membership campaign will not only attempt to increase the number of active Alumni Association members, but will also offer alumni the opportunity to remain informed and involved in the Centennial Celebration through Alumni Association communications. The campaign is being guided by a steering committee comprised of Association board members and alumni working in the marketing and public relations fields—John Atherton of Gulfport, Angie Cognevich of Hattiesburg, Walt Denton of Biloxi, Arthur S. Lumzy of Hattiesburg and Melissa Medley of Jackson.

"Membership in the Alumni Association is the most cost-effective and easiest way for alumni who are not currently engaged in the University to become involved," said Jerry DeFatta, the Association's associate director for external affairs. "It is our hope that this campaign and corresponding celebration in 2010 will serve as catalysts to help Southern Miss as we enter our second century."

DeFatta says the campaign will incorporate opportunities for supportive alumni to give memberships as gifts, invite fellow alumni to join the Association and allow local businesses to participate as corporate members.

"We are fortunate not only to have a great committee to guide this campaign, but also tremendous alumni all across the country who love Southern Miss," DeFatta said. "We are going to lean on the current membership to help advance this initiative, and we are confident they are up to the task."

Membership in the Alumni Association is $35 annually, $75 for three years. Life Memberships, Joint Memberships and discounts for seniors and young alumni are also available.

Visit SouthernMissAlumni.com or call 601.266.5013 for membership information.

OGLETREE HOUSE
Doors to Close, Temporarily

The welcome mat which has traditionally greeted alumni at the Ogletree House for decades may be rolled up—for now.

With the Alumni Association's $3 million Ogletree House Campaign nearing its completion in 2007, the 18-month construction phase of the restoration and expansion project is expected to begin January 2008. The Alumni Association staff will operate from the second floor of the Print Center located behind the Powerhouse Restaurant on the Hattiesburg campus until construction is complete.

The Ogletree House, which is one of the five original buildings on the Hattiesburg campus, opened in 1912. The project will not only restore the structure to its original glory but expand the facility to more than 12,000 square feet.

"With its rich history and prominent location on campus, the Ogletree House is a perfect home for our Alumni Association," said Alumni Association President Lou Ann Poynter, who along with Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, serves as the campaign's co-chair. This campaign has provided funds for much-needed repairs to preserve the original building but also to add more functional space to meet the growing needs of the Association."

Poynter and her husband, Louis, provided the campaign's Lead Gift in 2005.

In 2007, the campaign received significant boost from a trio of families, whose commitments were announced at a news conference in May—$225,000 from Max and Susan Draughn, $125,000 from Gene and Karen Carlisle and $75,000 from Drs. Jon and Christy Thornton. In addition, the Association announced that the Linnie Cockrell Simmons and Ralph T. Simmons Kitchen will be fitted with top of the line appliances from the Viking Range Corporation. Viking appliances can also be found in the University President's home as well as the new sorority homes in the Village housing complex.

The Ogletree House served as the home for the first five presidents of the institution until 1975. In 1976, the Alumni Association, utilizing a campaign chaired by Hattiesburg physician Lamar Gillespie and with the faithful service of Powell Ogletree, launched an effort to raise $200,000 to build a new home for the University's president. Given that the Alumni Association would generate the funding for a new president's home, the University allocated the existing structure to the Alumni Association for use as the new Alumni House. In 1987 it was named in honor of Ogletree, who was alumni director for 34 years until his retirement in 1987.

Left: The Ogletree House campaign will not only completely restore the nearly 100-year-old structure but expand it to twice its original size.

Top: Alumni Association president and Ogletree House Campaign co-chair Lou Ann Poynter announces several significant commitments to the campaign at a news conference in May.

Ogletree House Campaign CONTRIBUTORS

As of Nov. 15, 2007
Includes contributions of $1,000 and more.

Lead Gift
Lou Ann & Louis Poynter, *Hattiesburg, MS*

Major Level Gifts
Max & Susan Droughn, *Madison, MS*
Bill Phelen, *Scottsdale, AZ*

Special Level Gifts
Leonard & Lynn Busby, *Laurel, MS*
Gene & Karen Carlisle, *Memphis, TN*
Lester & Jon Haddox, *Columbia, MS*
Ralph Simmons, *Laurel, MS*
Jon & Christy Thornton, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jimmy & Jo Waites, *Laurel, MS*
Thad & Gerry Waites, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Bonnie & Lawrence Warren, *Hattiesburg, MS*

Sponsor Level Gifts
Reed Allison, *Gulfport, MS*
Bobby & Betty Chain, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Mike Chancellor, Chancellor Motor Group, *Laurel, MS*
Charles Finnegan, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Lamar & Joy Gillespie, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Curt & Virginia Hébert, *Mandeville, LA*
Marlin & Nelma Ivey, *Kosciusko, MS*
Ed & Lynda Langton, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Morgan & Angela McCarty, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Bob & Judy Mixon, *Sumrall, MS*
Lewis & Margie Myrick, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jim Payne, *Jackson, MS*
Liz & Larry Payne, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Son Rhodes, *Vancleave, MS*
Robin Robinson, *Laurel, MS*
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Greg & Susan Rutland, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Viking Range Corporation, *Greenwood, MS*
Billy Tom Ward, *Lena, MS*

Supporting Level Gifts
Tommy & Karen Boylis, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Mark & Pam Cumbest, *Moss Point, MS*
Herman & Sharon Herrin, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Mickey & Linda Hudson, *Ellisville, MS*
The First, David Johnson, CEO, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Bud & Virginia Kirkpatrick, *Hattiesburg, MS*
John Lozenby & Stacey Lozenby Malaret, *Windermere, FL*
Newman Lumber Company, *Gulfport, MS*
Jeffrey & Lynn O'Keefe, *Biloxi, MS*
Jon & John Polk, *Hattiesburg, MS*
David & Laurie Rimes, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jason & Mary Sanderson, *Madison, MS*
Martha Saunders & Joseph Bailey, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Ken & Carolyn Shearer, *Ridgeland, MS*
Marvin & Susan Shemper, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Chevis & Marcia Swetman, *Biloxi, MS*
Charles & Diane Thomas, *Hattiesburg, MS*
The Joe Winstead Family, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Anonymous, *Hattiesburg, MS*

Platinum Level Gifts
Gail & Larry Albert, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Rosemary & Les Aultman, *Clinton, MS*
Dick & Diane Berry, *Mobile, AL*
Glen & Judy Davis, *Saraland, AL*
Dwight & Virginia Harrigan, *Fulton, AL*
Mark & Olga Jackson, *Destin, FL*
Rex & Becky Kelly, *Gulfport, MS*
Susan & Richard Long, *Jackson, AL*
Aubrey & Ello Lucas, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Danny & Patty Mitchell, *Brandon, MS*
Judy Bookout Morgan, *Purvis, MS*
The Powell G. Ogletree Family, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Bob & Kristi Pierce, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Regions Bank, Greg Garroway, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Susan & Robert Riley, *Sumrall, MS*
W. Dayton Robinson, *Pass Christian, MS*
Doug & Pam Rouse, *Hattiesburg, MS*
The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Bill & Penne Ward, *Mobile, AL*

Gold Level Gifts
Don & Patricia Benefield, *Gulfport, MS*
Henry Conn, *Santa Rosa Beach, FL*
Janis Campbell Cooper, *Newton, IA*
Sarah Joe Dobbs, *Quitman, MS*
Lucy, Jack & Walt Denton, *Biloxi, MS*
Don & Marilyn Driskell, *Brookhaven, MS*
Hancock Bank, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Billy Hewes, *Gulfport, MS*
Warren Hood, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Charles & Janie Hauser, *Magnolia Springs, AL*
Krandell & Winnie Howell, *McComb, MS*
Paige & Debbie Howell, *McComb, MS*
James & Allen Hutto, *Petal, MS*
Robert & Barbara Ingram, *Foley, AL*
Bob & Patricia Jefcoat, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Paul Richard "Rick" Lambert, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Ralph McDaniel, *Ridgeland, MS*
Paul & Georgie McMullan, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Raymond & Lois McMullan, *Ridgeland, MS*
Joe & Meg Paul, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jack & Marsha Peters, *Lucedale, MS*
Randy & Kathy Pope, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Charles & Gleniece Roberts, *Meridian, MS*
Luke Schissel, *Greenwood, MS*
Ray & Jo Anne Sims, *Hattiesburg, MS*
South Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Sylvia & William Teasley, *Canton, GA*
Martha & Tommy Thornton, *Hattiesburg, MS*
James & Aryln Trussell, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Sharon Walker, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Larry & Carol Watson, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Ed Williamson, *Philadelphia, MS*
"Because Ralph Simmons asked me," *Hattiesburg, MS*

Silver Level Gifts
Spencer & B.J. Adams, *Mobile, AL*
Linda Albrittan, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Ted & Barbara Alexander, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Wynn & Carolyn Alexander, *Wiggins, MS*
Randy & Cheryl Alford, *Birmingham, AL*
Anderson Retail Inc. / Alan Anderson *Hattiesburg, MS*
Darrance & Carolyn Aultman, *Hattiesburg, MS*
B & S Appliance Distributors, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Alton & Kay Bankston, *Biloxi, MS*
Brandon Belote, *Vienna, VA*
Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Bilbo, *Jackson, MS*
Joe and Betty Boardman, *Gulfport, MS*
Annelle Banner, *Waynesboro, MS*
Judith Bostwick, *Albuquerque, NM*
Wesley & Lillian Breland, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Joyce Perkins Brown, *Chelsea, AL*
Phillip Buckner, *San Diego, CA*
Chris Callac, *Slidell, LA*
Claude Campbell, *Franklin, TN*
Bill & Susan Carter, *Raleigh, NC*
Brett Cassell, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Robert & Joyce Coghlan, *Aberdeen, MS*
College Panhellenic Council, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Milam & Betty Cotten, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Arty & Heather Creel, *Franklin, TN*
Pat & Grover Cruise, *Laurel, MS*
William Daly, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jerry & Bethanie DeFotta, *Petal, MS*
Jefferson & Catherine Devine, *Chesapeake, VA*
Richard Donnell, *Clinton, MS*
East Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter, *Meridian, MS*
Webb Farish, *Midland, Texas*
Becky-Sue Fitch, *Louisville, KY*
Steve Frazier, *Clinton, MS*
Hilton & Kimberly Gillespie, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Al & Jacqueline Gordy, *Magee, MS*
William Grantham, *Gulfport, MS*
Hattiesburg Coca-Cola, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Hattiesburg Medical Supply, *Hattiesburg, MS*
David Hosemann, *Vicksburg, MS*
Mike Haupt, *Madison, MS*
Melanie Hunsberger, *Tupelo, MS*
Jeff & Peggy Johnson, *Ames, Iowa*
Troy & Erin Johnston, *Jackson, MS*
Kim Jones, *Bethesda, MD*
Frances & Ray Karnes, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Tom & Susan King, *Petal, MS*
Laurel Metro Alumni Chapter, *Laurel, MS*
Lawrence Lennon, *Washington, DC*
Earl & Bobbie Marshall, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Melissa McDaniel, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Rose & George McNeese, *Sandy Hook, MS*
Bucky & Joy McElroy, *Monroe, LA*
Mike & Missy McMullan, *Ridgeland, MS*
James & Pat McPhail, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Tonya & William Mearse, *Houston, TX*
Steve Moore, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Eugene Owens, *Laurel, MS*
Alfred & Kim Pace, *Magee, MS*
Lyle Page, *Biloxi, MS*
Moron & Yvonne Pope, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Edna Perkins, *Lafayette, LA*
Greg Pierce, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Tom & Meg Puckett, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Andy & Shannon Reed, *Naples, FL*
Vic & Kathy Roberts, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Harry & Jon Ruffin, *Montrose, AL*
Kathleen Rush, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Ron & Monica Russell, *Madison, MS*
Ben Samel, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Doug & Rhonda Seidenburg, *Laurel, MS*
Dale & Janet Shearer, *Ridgeland, MS*
William Sheppard, *Picayune, MS*
Richard & Jerry Simmons, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jason Skrmetti, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Donald Smith, *Marietta, GA*
Roy Smith, *Sumrall, MS*
Kenneth & Virginia Stevens, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Frank Tenerelli, *China Valley, AZ*
Shelby & Shirley Thomas, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jim Thomas, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Jock Triggs, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Tommy Vervaeke, *Mandeville, LA*
Benny & Pam Waddle, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Deborah & William Watts, *Liberty, MS*
Evelyn Wellons, *Columbia, MS*
Bruce & Virginia Wilgus, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Clymer Wright, *Houston, TX*

Statement of FINANCIAL POSITION

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi in 1955 by then Executive Secretary Powell G. Ogletree. As of June 30, 2007, the conclusion of the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year, the Alumni Association reported total assets of $3,666,373 and a total membership of 16,624. The 16,624 members represent 18.7 percent of the University's 88,700 alumni-of-record. According to the Council of Alumni Association Executives, the national average of alumni participation in the leading alumni associations in the country is approximately 19 percent.

Assets

Current Assets	$ 744,902
Investments	$ 2,888,646
Total Property and Equipment	$ 32,825
Total Assets	**$ 3,666,373**

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities	$ 136,441
Noncurrent Liabilities (Deferred Revenue)	$ 56,913
Total Net Assets	$ 3,473,019
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$ 3,666,373**

Did You KNOW?

The Association's Accounting Constituent Society held its first continuing professional education event in May, attracting 82 alumni to the Thad Cochran Center on the Hattiesburg campus. In addition to numerous geographic chapters, the Association currently provides support for five constituent societies—Accounting, Economic Development, Juris Sodalitas (Legal), Minority and Nursing.

Statement of Activities for Year Ended June 30, 2007

- Royalty Income $ 756,196 (35.8%)
- Contributed Support $ 623,887 (29.5%)
- Membership Revenue $ 339,629 (16.1%)
- Investment Income $ 294,755 (14.0%)
- Event Revenue $ 52,124 (2.4%)
- Auxiliary Revenue $ 46,182 (2.2%)

Total revenue, gains and other support
$ 2,112,773

Expenses

- Program Services $ 1,067,051 (81.9%)
- General & Administrative $ 129,107 (9.9%)
- Membership Development $ 102,597 (7.9%)
- Auxiliary Expenses $ 3,885 (0.3%)

Total expenses
$1,302,640

Proposed Budget for 2007-2008

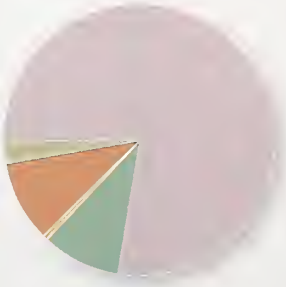
- Contributed Support $ 625,000 (44.4%)
- Membership Revenue $ 278,000 (19.8%)
- Investment Income $ 275,000 (19.6%)
- Royalty Income $ 119,000 (8.5%)
- Event Revenue $ 55,000 (3.9%)
- Auxiliary Revenue $ 53,000 (3.7%)

Total income and other support
$1,405,000

Expenses

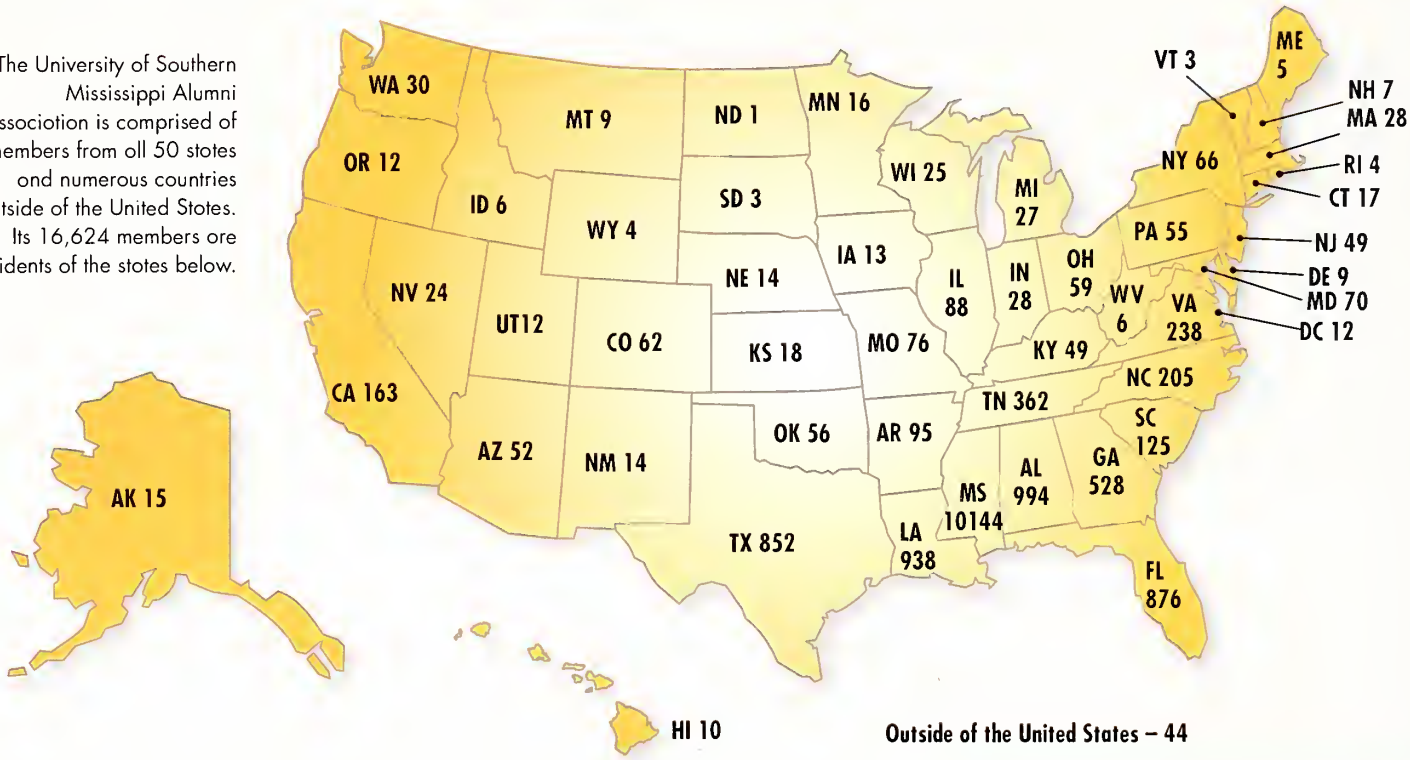
- Program Services $ 1,116,000 (79.4%)
- General & Administrative $ 132,000 (9.4%)
- Membership Development $ 134,000 (9.5%)
- Contingency $ 20,000 (1.4%)
- Auxiliary Expenses $ 3,000 (0.3%)

Total expenses
$1,405,000



About Our MEMBERS

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association is comprised of members from all 50 states and numerous countries outside of the United States. Its 16,624 members are residents of the states below.



The Legacy Growing in Numbers

The Legacy, the student chapter of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, has a history of having a large number of members who participate in activities and programming that meet the Alumni Association's motto of Tradition, Pride, Loyalty, and Excellence. This year, however, the number of members has grown even larger.

The Legacy grew to more than 600 students during the Fall 2007 membership drive, making it the largest dues-based student organization at Southern Miss.

The Legacy Board planned a vast array of programming for the fall semester, ranging from the traditional Legacy Series featuring four keynote speakers to a movie night on the new high-definition scoreboard in The Rock. In addition, The Legacy held monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month for members to ask questions and give feedback regarding events for the 2007-2008 year.

THE Legacy

Continuous years of annual membership in the Alumni Association*

Number of years	Number of Members
0-4	4,818
5-9	2,466
10-14	1,293
15-19	970
20-24	823
25 and more	2,306

* Does not include Life Members

Did You KNOW?

In 2007, the Association surpassed its 4,000th Life Member, a list that now includes University President Dr. Martha Saunders and entertainer Jimmy Buffett.

Life Memberships in the Association are $450 ($600 for a joint membership) or can be paid in five annual installments of $100 ($130 for joint membership).

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association

Annual Report | 2006-2007

The University of
Southern Mississippi
Alumni Association

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Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Tel: 601-266-5013
Fax: 601-266-4214
alumni@usm.edu
SouthernMissAlumni.com

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1910 SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

20,000 in 2010

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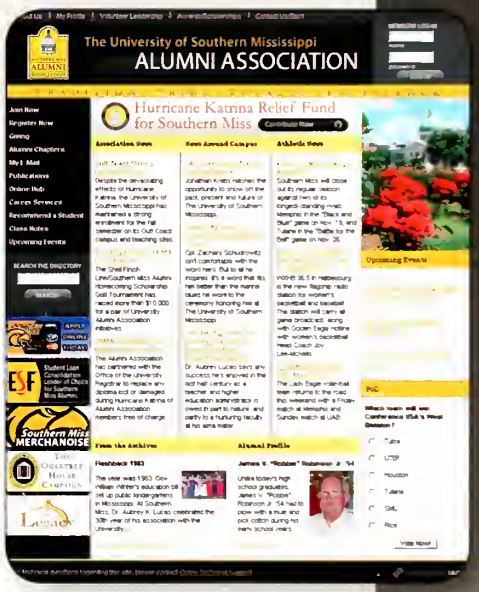


Tired of sending out blast e-mails informing friends and family each time your e-mail address changes? Take advantage of SouthernMissAlumni.com's forwarding feature.

Want access to Facebook.com but no longer have your usm.edu e-mail address? You can register on Facebook.com with your new alumni e-mail address.

You can check your e-mail from anywhere in the world at SouthernMissAlumni.com—and it's free!

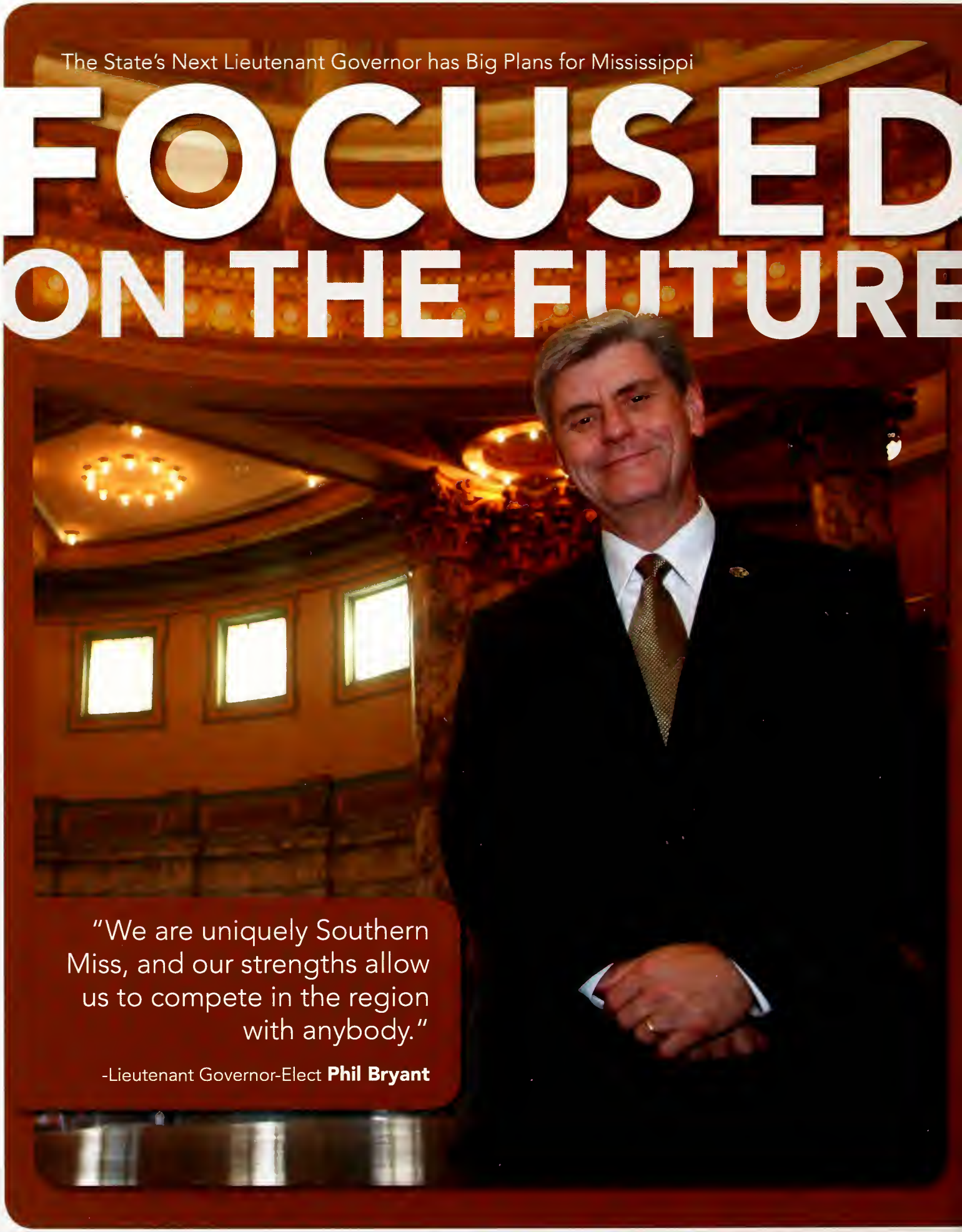
Here's how to register

Go to SouthernMissAlumni.com

- If you are not a registered user, click the Register Now button and tell us about yourself
- If you are a registered user, log on
- Once logged-on as a register user, click the Register for E-Mail link in the My E-Mail section
- Accept the terms of service
- Enter your desired e-mail name
- Sign Up!

The State's Next Lieutenant Governor has Big Plans for Mississippi

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE



"We are uniquely Southern Miss, and our strengths allow us to compete in the region with anybody."

-Lieutenant Governor-Elect **Phil Bryant**

Phil Bryant '77 has not stopped since his election as Mississippi's lieutenant governor in November.

"We took a couple of days off after the election, but the following Monday it was back to work, 12-15 hour days," said the Life Member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. "We've not slowed down during the transition. There is definitely a sense of urgency to get to work for the state immediately. We want to change the view of politics in our state. We want to have the most ethical Senate in Mississippi history."

You could forgive Bryant, however, if he took a minute to reflect on the nature of his election. Following in the footsteps of Evelyn Gandy, Bryant will become only the second Southern Miss alum to serve in the lieutenant governor's post.

"I firmly believe that without the Southern Miss family I would not have been elected," Bryant said. "Of course we had support throughout the state from graduates of many different institutions, but I'm proud to be a Southern Miss alumnus."

Bryant, the first member of his family to earn a college degree, often references his humble origins in his public appearances.

"When I came to Southern Miss in 1975 we were considered the third Mississippi school," Bryant said. "But I was attracted to its openness. A lot of us were blue-collar kids, and Southern Miss gave us an opportunity to gain a higher education."

As an active alumnus who most recently served as co-chair the Alumni Association's Presidential Transition Team, Bryant notes that the University is positively different from his days as a student.

"We shouldn't be limited by our own feelings about ourselves," said Bryant, a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame. "It's nice to have a long legacy with a great history—and Southern Miss has a great history—but we are so much more about the future than the past at Southern Miss. We are uniquely Southern Miss, and our strengths allow us to compete in the region with anybody."

Alumni like Ed Langton, a past president of the Alumni Association, say Bryant's work with the University should be a benefit to universities and colleges across the state.

"He has an intimate knowledge of how a university operates, and furthermore, how a university helps to build community," Langton said. "In addition, he is a wise individual who uses good discernment. You can trust his judgment, and that he will ensure fairness across the board."

Alumni Association President Lou Ann Poynter witnessed first-hand Bryant's work with the Association's Presidential Transition Team, which concluded its work when Dr. Martha Saunders was named University president earlier this year.

"Phil Bryant is a dedicated alumnus who cares deeply for The University of Southern Mississippi," said Poynter, who served as a member of the IHL Board's Campus Search Advisory Committee. "His volunteer work with the University is evidence of his strong belief in public service, a belief that no doubt will serve the entire state of Mississippi well in the coming years."

While Bryant no doubt will push for economic advances across the state, he sees tremendous opportunity for the University and south Mississippi.

"The growth in our state is taking place in south Mississippi," said Bryant, who envisions an economic development region stretching across the Gulf Coast, from Texas to Florida. "We need to forget about state lines. With five governors, five lieutenant governors and dozens of Congressmen working together, we could have some real influence—not only in Washington, but in the world."

As far as the immediate future, however, Bryant is focused on his duties leading the Mississippi Senate.

"The next step is hiring staff and selecting chairmen for each committee," said Bryant, who notes that fully funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, passing voter identification legislation and addressing illegal immigration issues top the list of items he'd like to see addressed in 2008. Bryant adds that the state budget will also present a challenge, as he says requests from governmental agencies are up 15 percent from a year ago.

One way Bryant plans on saving the state money is by proposing a reduction of the 2008 legislative session from 125 days to 90. While regular sessions are usually 90 days, the first session under each new administration is scheduled for 125. Bryant's proposal requires the approval of both houses of the legislature. If approved, he estimates that the proposal will save more than $800,000. "That is money we can put toward health care or education," he said.

EVELYN GANDY

When Phil Bryant takes office in January, he will not be the first Southern Miss alum to hold the position of lieutenant governor. That distinction goes to Evelyn Gandy who attended Southern Miss prior to earning a juris doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law. In 1947, she began the practice of law in Hattiesburg, and after her career in public service, she returned to private law practice in Hattiesburg in January 1984.

In 1948, Gandy was elected to serve as representative in the Mississippi State Legislature from Forrest County. She was the first woman elected to the statewide positions of State Treasurer (1960 to 1964, 1968 to 1972), Commissioner of Insurance (1972 to 1976) and Lieutenant Governor (1976 to 1980). Gandy was also part of the inaugural Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 1987.

Gandy has served as assistant attorney general and Commissioner of Public Welfare, again as the first woman to serve in both appointed positions. She has served on a number of policy-making state boards and commissions, including the Commission of Budgeting and Accounting, the State Insurance Commission, the Board of Economic Development, and the Public Employees Retirement Board. She has served as a member of the National Advisory Council for the Salvation Army and the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy.

Gandy has been active in numerous professional and civic organizations and is a past state president of the Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the South Central Mississippi Women Lawyers Association and the Mississippi Official Women's Club. She is a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

Gandy is a member of the University Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, where she

A DRIVING FORCE

HOW SOUTHERN MISS RECRUITERS ARE FUELING THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY

By Susan Scott '02

By the time freshmen are unpacking their boxes in their dorm rooms in August, Southern Miss admissions counselors are already busy seeking out next year's freshmen. The entire Southern Miss community has a vested interest in the continuous, successful recruitment of future graduates, and manning the frontlines of this University-wide effort are the admissions counselors housed in the Office of Admissions. Each fall, this team of 10 admissions counselors—also called recruiters—become self-described road warriors as they travel to high schools and community colleges throughout the region to promote the quality and advantages of the Southern Miss student experience.

Recruiters are often students' first introduction to the Southern Miss family. "Sometimes, you only have a minute at a college fair to tell them about their opportunities at Southern Miss, so you really need to make that minute count," said Erin Lambert, a second-year admissions counselor. "My parting words are usually 'Come visit campus!' If I have a little longer, I try to figure out what are the student's interests and ambitions, where they want to go in life, and then from that student's perspective, show them why Southern Miss is the right choice."

The care and personal attention that recruiters give future students exemplify the nurturing environment that awaits future students of the University. Since all 10 admissions counselors are Southern Miss alumni, their

Allison Bruton '99
Interim Co-Director of Admissions for Recruitment
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Jason Beverly '02
Senior Admissions Counselor
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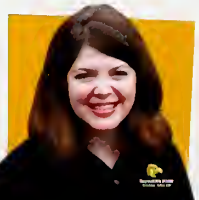
Amanda Belsom '03, '06
Coordinator for Recruitment & Admissions, Advisor to Eagle Connection
Amanda.K.Belsom@usm.edu



Susan Scott '02
Admissions Counselor & Coordinator for Campus Visits
Susan.W.Scott@usm.edu

Erin Lambert '06
Admissions Counselor
Territory: South Mississippi
Erin.Lambert@usm.edu

Student tour guide Melissa Freyder, a senior biological sciences major from New Orleans, gives a campus tour to Jessica Stringer, a prospective student from Mandeville, La. Jessica is the daughter of Susan and LaRay Stringer '69.

personal experiences are powerful tools in relating to prospective students. "I never feel like I'm just towing a company line when I tell students and parents that Southern Miss really cares about you," says admissions counselor Kathryn Bush, a recent graduate. "I know it's true because the Southern Miss community really cared about me as a student."

Like so many other pursuits on campus, University recruitment actively involves current Southern Miss students. Eagle Connection is the campus recruitment team of 60 students charged with encouraging prospective students to choose Southern Miss.

"It would be hard to find a better recruitment tool than our current students," remarks Amanda Belsom, coordinator for admissions and recruitment, and advisor to Eagle Connection. "Eagle Connection members are student leaders from all over campus and are so positive about the experiences they're having as students at Southern Miss. That level of enthusiasm and pride is easy for prospective students to pick up on."

While admissions counselors are vital to University recruitment, they are also valuable resources for students and parents. Southern Miss sophomore Marks McWhorter knows firsthand how helpful an admissions counselor can be in making the right decision.

"I knew that Southern Miss had a lot to offer, but I just didn't know if it was the best place for me," recalled McWhorter, a graduate of St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson. My recruiter helped show me it really had everything I needed, and now looking back on it, I couldn't have made a better decision."

Southern Miss admissions counselors can assist students with the details of applying for admission, scholarships, housing and financial aid. "The college admissions process can be overwhelming and confusing without help," says Allison Bruton, interim co-director of admissions. "Our admissions counselors are highly trained on virtually every aspect of campus life, not just the admissions process. We work closely with other departments on campus to help connect future students with the resources and opportunities that will help them succeed at Southern Miss and beyond."

Without a doubt, recruiting the children, siblings and grandchildren of Southern Miss alumni is a top priority. "Some may be surprised to know that an estimated 25 percent of our enrolled students are Southern Miss legacies," comments Dr. Joe Paul, vice president for Student Affairs. "As a relatively young university with most of our alumni graduating post-1980, this is a heartwarming and remarkable trend." But the role of alumni doesn't end there, adds Dr. Paul. "We want our alumni to share their Southern Miss story with every college-bound student they know, and for alumni to pass the names of those students on to us," he exhorts. "We certainly do not want to overlook an amazing prospect, and our alumni can help us significantly in these efforts."

Eagle Connection is the campus recruitment team of 60 students charged with encouraging prospective students to choose Southern Miss.

Campus tours are available Monday through Friday and typically feature meeting with an admissions counselor, touring campus and a residence hall, and meetings with academic departments of interest. Tours can be scheduled by calling the Office of Admissions at 601.266.5000. You can recommend a student to Southern Miss by returning the card enclosed in this issue of *The Talon* or at any time at SouthernMissAlumni.com.

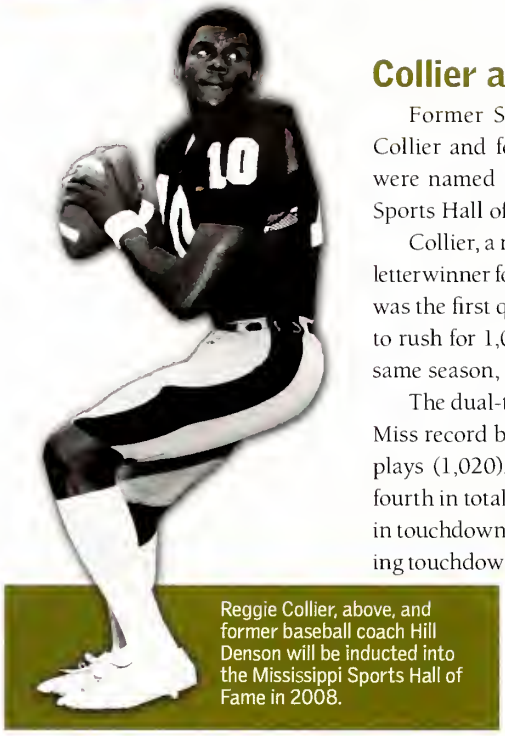
Kathryn Bush '06
Admissions Counselor
Territory: Mississippi Gulf Coast, Southern Alabama (Mobile), Florida
Marcellyn.Bush@usm.edu

D. J. Preiss '03
Transfer Admissions Counselor
Community/Junior Colleges
Donald.Preiss@usm.edu

Shannon Odom '07
Admissions Counselor
Territory: Jackson, Mississippi Delta
Shannon.R.Odom@usm.edu

Jessica Bueto '06
Admissions Counselor
Territory: Northeast Mississippi, Northern Alabama (Birmingham)
Jessica.Bueto@usm.edu

Ashley Johnston '07
Admissions Counselor
Territory: Southwest Mississippi, Louisiana
Ashley.Johnston@usm.edu



Reggie Collier, above, and former baseball coach Hill Denson will be inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Collier and Denson Named to Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame

Former Southern Miss football standout Reggie Collier and former head baseball coach Hill Denson were named to the Class of 2008 for the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Collier, a native of D'Iberville, Miss., was a four-year letterwinner for the Golden Eagles from 1979 to 1982. He was the first quarterback in NCAA Division I-A history to rush for 1,000 yards and pass for 1,000 yards in the same season, a feat he accomplished in 1981.

The dual-threat remains prominent in the Southern Miss record books where he is fourth in total offensive plays (1,020), fourth in total offensive yards (5,966), fourth in total offensive yards per game (152.27), fourth in touchdowns responsible for (42), tied for fifth in rushing touchdowns (26), seventh in pass completions (288), eighth in pass attempts (574), eighth in passing yardage (3,662), eighth in rushing yards gained (2,304), 10th in touchdown passes (16), 10th in rushing attempts (446) and 23rd in all-purpose running (2,304).

Collier, the lone football inductee of the class, was drafted by the Birmingham Stallions of the USFL in the first round in 1983 and also played with the Washington Federals and the Orlando Renegades. He spent several seasons in the NFL as a member of the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers.

He currently serves at his alma mater as the Coordinator of Athletic Development and Community Relations.

Denson took the reins of the baseball program from his mentor C.J. "Pete" Taylor in 1984 and took the Golden Eagles to unprecedented heights.

In his 14 seasons as the head coach at Southern Miss, Denson compiled a 468-386-2 record, guiding the program to 10 30-win seasons, two 40-win seasons and two trips to the NCAA Regional Tournament, the school's first in all three categories.

Denson currently serves as the head baseball coach at Belhaven College.

Bower Resigns Effective Following Papajohns.com Bowl

University of Southern Mississippi football coach Jeff Bower has announced his resignation effective after the Papajohns.com Bowl on Dec. 22.

"We want to take this opportunity to thank Jeff for his loyalty to The University of Southern Mississippi and for his coaching achievements over the last 17 years," Southern Miss Athletic Director Richard Giannini said. "We really wish him the best in the future, and I know he will go down in history as one of our most outstanding coaches."

Bower, who has been a part of the Southern Miss program for 29 seasons, was a standout quarterback for the school from 1972 to 1975, an assistant coach from 1976 until 1981 and then again in 1989 for a season, before returning following the 1990 campaign as the head coach.

He led the program for the first time in the 1990 All American Bowl in Birmingham, and his tenure stretched for 17 seasons, where he guided the program to a 119-82-1 record. The program clinched its 14th-straight winning season—the second longest in the history of the school—with its 16-10 win over Arkansas State in the regular season finale.

Under Bower's tutelage, the Golden Eagles won four Conference USA championships in 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2003, while winning the 2006 East Division crown.

"Southern Miss has been a significant part of my life for my family and me for a very long time," Bower said. "To have played here, received my education here, coached here and now to have a daughter who is a student here is a great blessing.

"My family and I would like to thank the many fans who have become a part of our family over the years. I would also like to say a special thank you to the many young men—both players and coaches—who have joined me in giving their all to this program. I am proud that we run a clean program; we've run it with integrity, we've won games and most importantly our student-athletes have left Southern Miss with a degree."

The Papajohns.com Bowl is the sixth-straight bowl appearance for the Golden Eagles and 10th in the last 11 years.

The Winter 2008 edition of *The Talon* will include more on the coaching change at Southern Miss.

Southern Miss to Play Cincinnati in Papajohns.com Bowl

[illegible]

The Golden Eagles Under Bower

1990 • 0-1: *All American Bowl*

1991 • 4-7

1992 • 7-4

1993 • 2-8-1

1994 • 6-5

1995 • 6-5

1996 • 8-3 : *Conference USA Champs*

1997 • 9-3: *Conference USA Champs, Conference USA Coach of the Year, AXA Liberty Bowl Champs*

1998 • 7-5 : *Humanitarian Bowl*

1999 • 9-3: *Conference USA Champs, Conference USA Coach of the Year, AXA Liberty Bowl Champs*

2000 • 8-4: *GMAC Mobile Alabama Bowl Champs*

2001 • 6-5

2002 • 7-6: *Houston Bowl*

2003 • 9-4: *Conference USA Champs, Conference USA Coach of the Year, AXA Liberty Bowl*

2004 • 7-5: *Wyndham New Orleans Bowl Champs, Conference USA Coach of the Decade*

2005 • 7-5: *New Orleans Bowl Champs*

2006 • 9-5: *Conference USA East Division Champs, GMAC Bowl Champs*

2007 • 7-5: *Papajohns.com Bowl*

LOFTY EXPECTATIONS

Golden Eagles Look to Build on 2006-07

Southern Miss looks ready to build on last year's success under head coach Larry Eustachy. The Eagles return four starters and almost all of last season's contributors, led by sophomore Jeremy Wise, who averaged 17.5 points a game a year ago.

The Golden Eagles were rarely out-rebounded last season thanks to big man Demar Dotson and shot-block specialist Gijo Bain. Bain and Dotson both return as the only seniors on Eustachy's squad.

New faces this season include Mississippi's Mr. Basketball, R.L. Horton; guards Kevin Branch and Wayne Turner; and forward Brandon Cooks.

"We're definitely better than last year," said Eustachy. "The whole conference is better. But our non-conference schedule, with games at Cal and Alabama, is tough. I still think that, age-wise, we are the youngest team in the conference."

After an early slate that had the Eagles at home for the most part, the Conference USA schedule begins on Jan. 8 with a home game against Central Florida, followed by a game against Tulane four days later. Southern Miss will then go on the road for a game with UAB before a marquee match-up with Memphis in the FedEx forum on Jan. 19.

"We wanted to expose our team to, and build up, our fan base. For this program to get to where I think we can be, we need to get a fan base that gives us a really good home-court advantage," Eustachy said about the early schedule. "There's a lot of thought that goes into it. As much thought as we put into recruiting, we put into scheduling. We've got our mix of games that we have a chance to win, as well as games that will be difficult."

After nearly a week off, the Eagles will return home to the Green House for a single game with Rice on Jan. 26. Four days later, the Golden Eagles will go to El Paso to face UTEP.

Eustachy's Eagles will then return home for a two-game home stand against ECU on Feb. 2 and UAB on Feb. 5.

The Golden Eagles, who were picked in fourth in C-USA by the league's coaches, will then become road warriors, facing four of the next five opponents away from home. The Eagles start at Tulsa on Feb. 9, before traveling to Greenville, N.C., to face ECU on Feb. 16. After a stop in Hattiesburg to face SMU on Feb. 20, Southern Miss must go on the road again to face Tulane in New Orleans and Houston in Houston on Feb. 23 and 27, respectively.

After four days' rest, the Eagles will once again face rival Memphis; this time in Hattiesburg. Conference play is rounded out by a home-court rematch with UTEP on March 4 and a trip to West Virginia to face Marshall on March 8. The C-USA tournament begins on March 12 in Memphis, Tenn.

LADY EAGLES RELYING ON MIXTURE OF EXPERIENCE AND YOUTH

Head Coach Joye Lee-McNelis entered the 2007-08 season with a great sense of familiarity. For the second-consecutive year, she possesses only one senior, Liz Biland, on her basketball squad. A 15-15 overall record from 2006-07 marked the most wins in seven seasons.

McNelis and her staff returned four starters from last season, including Biland, junior guard/forward Kendra Reed, junior guard Amber Eugene and sophomore forward Lauren Pittman.

"I am excited about our returning group of players," McNelis said. "The great thing about this group is that they got some very valuable playing experience in a lot of close games last year."

The Lady Eagles welcomed eight newcomers to the team, including guard Andrea Barber, center Stephanie Helgeson, guard Brittany Johnson, forward Pauline Love, guard Shanice Mays, center Jasmine Sanders, guard/forward Tanesha Washington and guard Erica Williams.

Joye Lee-McNelis

Courtney Beasley

Larry Eustachy

Kendra Reed

Liz Biland

Jeremy Wise

"The incoming class, as a whole, is a great recruiting class," McNelis noted of the newcomers. "My staff did an excellent job of putting together a fine group of young ladies that are solid individuals on and off the floor. The staff has high expectations, and we believe that they will come in and be difference-makers for us."

The Lady Eagles' remaining schedule includes 16 Conference USA games. Southern Miss will play a stretch of five consecutive home games, beginning with UCF on Jan. 25, East Carolina (Jan. 31), Marshall (Feb. 2), Memphis (Feb. 7) and UAB on Feb. 9. The Lady Eagles play at East Carolina on Feb. 15 and Marshall on Feb. 17 before closing out the home portion of their schedule with UTEP (Feb. 22) and Tulane (Feb. 24). Southern Miss concludes its regular season at Memphis (Feb. 28) and at UAB (March 1).

"Our conference schedule will be a challenge for us because we open up on the road to start," McNelis said. "The league has a lot of returning players from last year. Conference USA is right on the verge of breaking onto the national scene and each year we've earned a little more respect."

The regular season concludes with the Conference USA Women's Basketball Championship presented by Aéropostale March 6-9, in Orlando, Fla.

Circle of Champions Program Continues to Grow

New members of Circle of Champions, which recognizes donors to the athletic program who have committed at least $100,000 over a 10-year period, include:

Pat L. McKenzie Inc. / Pat and Brett McKenzie made the decision to join the Circle of Champions because they share the vision of the basketball coaching staff and see progress being made toward the program's goals.

"We think that we should do our part in helping to obtain the goals because we want to see the continued growth of our athletic program," they said. "We also donated part of our money to the general scholarship program to help the student-athletes of all sports. It is difficult to make it through classes and practices, so we are happy to help support them through this time. We encourage anyone who feels the same to show your support as well."

Mark and Debbie Roberts of Mize are graduates of other Mississippi institutions, but their links to Southern Miss are nevertheless extensive.

Mark, who graduated from Mississippi State University and followed that with postgraduate work at Texas A&M, is co-owner of Eastern Fishing & Rental Tool Co., Inc. in Laurel, with Circle of Champion member Nick Welch. Debbie attended Southern Miss and graduated from Belhaven College. Their eldest daughter, Brooke, is a senior at Southern Miss.

"Debbie and I believe strongly in the benefit that education and athletics give young men and women," Mark said. "Although I am a graduate of Mississippi State, I now live and work in the Hattiesburg area and recognize the value of Southern Miss to the area. Over the past several years USM has continued to gain positive media attention through the success of its athletic programs. Debbie and I look forward to continued support of the University and to have a small part in its continued success."

Since leaving Southern Miss as the most decorated basketball player in the institution's history, **Clarence Weatherspoon** has been extremely active with Southern Miss athletics and especially the basketball program. After finishing at Southern Miss, Weatherspoon, a three-time Metro Conference Player of the Year and a first round draft pick of the Philadelphia 76ers, enjoyed a 13-year career in the National Basketball Association.

He finished his career as the school's all-time leader in rebounding (1,320) and blocked shots (227) and is second on the career scoring list (2,130 points) to another Southern Miss great, Nick Revon. He graduated with a degree in business administration in 1993.

Weatherspoon, one of 13 children, resides in Madison with his wife, Hazel, and their children, Clay and Simone.

Dickie and Nancy Dunaway, owners of Dunaway Glass on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, have added their names to the Circle of Champions. Dickie, who serves on the Southern Miss Athletic Foundation Board of Directors, is a three-year letterman in football having played from 1964 to 1967. Nancy also attended Southern Miss from 1972 to 1974 and was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

In addition, Dickie and Nancy have already established a planned gift for a football endowment for a punter.

For additional information on the Circle of Champions program contact the Eagle Club at 601.266.5299.

Take Advantage of Your Chance to Join an Elite Organization –

The Eagle Club

The Eagle Club continues to increase its support for the scholarship program for Southern Miss student-athletes. Last year, the Eagle Club raised $1.8 million of the more than $3 million needed to fully fund academic scholarships for Southern Miss athletes. Your commitment to the Eagle Club is an opportunity to truly invest in the future of our University.

In addition, if you have a desire for quality seats in M.M. Roberts Stadium, construction will be completed with the opening of suites and club-level seating for the start of the 2008 season. These exclusive seats will open numerous quality seats between the 20-yard lines on both sides of the stadium, as well as offer you the opportunity to buy upgraded club level seats.

For additional information on the Eagle Club or priority seating, call the Eagle Club at 601.266.5299, or e-mail either Dick Vogel at Richard.Vogel@usm.edu or Reggie Collier at Reggie.Collier@usm.edu.

Carpenter Golf Tournament a Success Again

Hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Mike Molleston and presented by the Isle of Capri Casinos, Biloxi, the golf program took a major step in the construction of its facility at Canebrake Golf Club. Proceeds from the James Ray Carpenter Golf Tournament, which featured 2005 and 2006 U.S. Senior Open Champion Allen Doyle, were placed in the building fund for this facility. This year's golf tournament took the total giving to the golf facility to close to $100,000. In addition, golf endowments stand at more than $400,000.

This year's event featured two evening socials—the first was hosted by the Isle of Capri at the Hattiesburg Country Club where each player was presented a framed autographed tee flag by Carpenter and Doyle. The golf was played at James Ray's home course, Shadow Ridge, and was followed by the second social, a dinner reception at the home of Dr. Molleston.

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI

FINISH LINE

HOMECOMING SCHOLARSHIP

Golf Tournament

Coca-Cola

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association extends its gratitude and appreciation to the sponsors and participants of the 2007 Shell Finish Line / Southern Miss Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament. This tournament marked the ninth consecutive year with major corporate sponsorship and was the third Alumni Association tournament to be played at Shadow Ridge Golf Club in Hattiesburg.

The tournament featured more than 100 golfers and 40 sponsors, with proceeds from the event helping to support the Association's Legacy Fund, which awards scholarships to select children and grandchildren of Southern Miss alumni.

As has been stated many times before, there has never been a better time to be a part of Southern Miss. The success of the 2007 Shell Finish Line / Southern Miss Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament is just one more reason why it is great to be a Golden Eagle.

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David Cuevas	Don Drone	Don Matter	Tom Wafford	Lamar Lott	Jim Hughes
Mike Moder	Cliff Wren	Bill Carey	Marvin Oglesby	Glenn Patrick	Teddy Viator

Hattiesburg Coca-Cola's Brad Brian, left, and Shell Finish Line's Will Martens present a $10,000 check for the proceeds of the Homecoming Golf Tournament to Bob Pierce, Executive Director of the Alumni Assocation.

Partners for the Arts Celebrates Decade of Support at Southern Miss

A non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing cultural opportunities in south Mississippi is celebrating a decade of connecting the community with the arts at The University of Southern Mississippi.

For the past 10 years, Partners for the Arts has dedicated itself to "supporting the many wonderful arts programs that are in place at Southern Miss by providing additional opportunities for artistic growth for students and faculty artists," said Partners advisory board chair Becky Montague.

"Partners for the Arts has truly been a progressive partner with the College of Arts and Letters," says Dr. Steven Moser, associate dean of the college and executive director of Partners. "This group has built a much-needed support base for the arts at Southern Miss, greatly benefiting not only its students and faculty, but also the entire community through its outreach efforts."

Partners for the Arts

College of Arts and Letters Dean Denise von Herrmann has watched Partners for the Arts grow and evolve during her tenure in college leadership roles. With growing budgets for performance productions and educational opportunities for arts students, Partners has filled a void in funding over the years.

"Partners has single-handedly enhanced our arts programs through their contributions each year, both in financial support and by their presence and interaction," she explained. "For instance, if Partners generates $80,000 in a single year for our arts program in general, that could mean we can offer one more scholarship, one more theater production, one more symphony concert, and one more museum exhibition for the public."

Reaching and unifying arts patrons has been the primary focus of Partners over the years. Now, the group is expanding its reach across campus by collaborating with the University's Eagle Club and bringing the benefits of the arts to other sectors of the community.

"Since we consider ourselves the 'Eagle Club for the arts' at Southern Miss, we want to reach out to the athletic fan base and showcase areas where the arts contribute to the game-day experience," said Charles Thomas of Hattiesburg, Partners' immediate past chair.

Partners supported various arts events the weekend of Nov. 10 "Black Out" home football game against Memphis, as well as a tailgating party, to generate additional support for The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band.

To boost its annual support of a variety of Southern Miss arts events this year, the organization is in the middle of its annual membership drive. "This year's drive is special as we have reached our 10-year mark," Montague said.

Membership, of course, comes with benefits. In addition to financially supporting the arts through membership contributions at varying levels, Partners also hosts a number of member events throughout the year, including meet-the-artist receptions.

"We offer something for everyone," Montague said. "We support the visual arts, music, theater and dance, and in doing so, we contribute to the quality of life in our community."

For more information about becoming a member of Partners for the Arts and upcoming events, call 601.266.4618 or visit usm.edu/arts/PFTA.

"Luck Be a Lady Tonight!" The Southern Opera and Musical Theatre Company at Southern Miss presented a full-scale production of the Broadway classic "Guys and Dolls" Oct. 11-14 to sold-out audiences. The next production, scheduled for April 10 and 12, 2008, will be Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," in cooperation with Mississippi Opera.

As the temperature falls, be sure to wap yourself in the warmest black and gold. And when you brave the conditions in your Southern Miss gear, be sure to let us know. Send photos* of yourself, your family and friends, and we will print as many as space allows in a future edition of Snapshots.

1. Golden Eagle baseball fan and alumna Rebecca Alston '05 took this photo in the Galapagos Islands. The alumna was in Ecuador completing her international field experience for a Master of Public Health degree from South Florida and decided to take the short trip to Galapagos.

2. Dewey L. Herring '85, left, education officer at NASA Stennis Space Center, receives a Silver Snoopy award from Astronaut Rick Sturckow. With Herring is his wife, Sylvia. The Silver Snoopy is the personal achievement award given to space program workers by NASA's Astronaut Corps.

3. Kappa Sigma alumni gathered in Orange Beach, Ala., for the second annual Epsilon Nu Chapter Alumni Spring Fling, April 21-23, 2007.

4. Chi Omega alumnae Glenda Meadows Grubbs '72, '76, right, and Mollie Magee Van Devender '78, who won the Miss Mississippi pageant in 1972 and 1975, respectively, took time for this photo at this year's pageant.

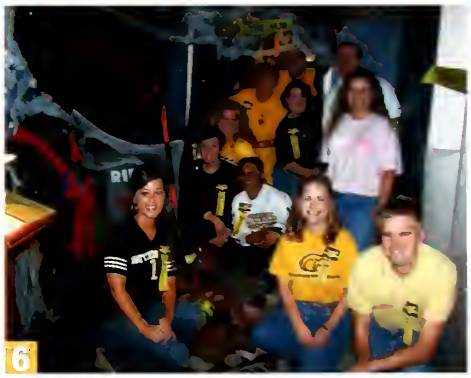
5. Artist Wyatt Waters works on a watercolor impression of the Aubrey Keith Lucas Administration Building. The watercolor is on the back cover of a new special-edition cookbook titled "Southern Seasons," showcasing 140 new recipes by alumnus Robert St. John.

6. For the fifth consecutive year, Regions Bank in Hattiesburg sponsored an office decorating contest on Homecoming weekend. Regions employees then cheered the Golden Eagles to a 28-7 victory over SMU.

7. This group of Golden Eagles from Biloxi took a photo before heading to the Southern Miss football game in Knoxville. Pictured are Debby Cleveland '76, Joel Wilson '83, Thelma Wilson and her grandson Jacob Wilson, Scott Stafford '83, and Brett Walker with parents Brenda Walker '78 and Bill Walker '80.

8. Anna Voynik poses for this photograph with Southern Miss running back Damion Fletcher taken at Golden Eagle Fanfare in Hattiesburg. Voynik is the daughter of Tammy '92 and Eddie Voynik '93.

* For printing purposes, please save or scan your photos at a resolution of 300 dpi. If you have any questions, contact the Alumni Association at 601.266.5013.



Now is your chance to catch up on the news and accomplishments of your fellow Golden Eagles. To submit your news to *The Talon*, please send your information to the Southern Miss Alumni Association, 118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, e-mail alumni@usm.edu or post it online at SouthernMissAlumni.com. Deadline for submissions to be included in the Winter 2007 edition is December 31. All cities are in Mississippi unless otherwise noted.

1940s

Ted Ruhig has recently published "Sweet Magnolia Nan," a collection of works by his beloved late wife, **Nancy Ingram Ruhig '41**.

1950s

Marie Martin Jones '52 and her husband, Mack P. Jones, hosted the annual amateur radio group, YLISSB, in Durango, Colo., from May 31 to June 3, 2007.

Randall Patterson '58 has been re-elected to a second term in the Mississippi House of Representatives for Biloxi, District 115.

1960s

Sidney Lindsey Caldwell '63 retired in June 2007 after 44 years of teaching middle school math. She continues to reside in Safety Harbor, Fla.

Bonnie Purvis Warren '63 has been re-elected national president of Kappa Delta sorority.

Jim Andrews '64 has been providing technical assistance, training and design standards to people with disabilities. A nationally recognized expert in his field, Andrews works with a variety of professionals. He has also served as an Alumni Association volunteer in the Washington, D.C. area.

Jack Stratas '64 has been awarded a doctoral degree in ministry by New Heights Bible College and Seminary.

Janice Polk-Loftin '67, '78 has retired from public school administration after 37 years. She currently works at Southern Miss as an adjunct professor with masters' students going through the one-year internship required to qualify to become an administrator in public schools.

Wayne Meeks '68 retired in June 2006 from First Baptist Church of Waynesboro where he served as minister of music for 26 years. Meeks retires with a total of 44 years in the music ministry.

1970s

James T. Simpson '70, '73 has been named distinguished professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

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Rebeeea Chennault '74 retired from Hinds Community College on June 30, 2007, after 32 years of teaching.

Mark Cumbest '75, broker-owner of Cumbest Realty, Inc. in Jackson County, has been elected chairman of the Mississippi Real Estate Commission. His term runs through June 2008.

Richard G. Weaver '76, '77 was recently presented the Legion of Merit award for 28 years of service to the U.S. Army Reserve. Weaver is the recipient of the Combat Action Badge and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Eva "Tootsie" Jenkins '77 has been appointed the music teacher at Abita Springs Elementary School in Abita Springs, La.

Jenny Nolen '77, '78 partnered with Continuum Education and Training and currently offers her services as a motivational speaker for workplace training and improvement.

Victor DuBose '79, '83 has expanded his law practice to include mediation, and is one of the mediators in the Hurricane Katrina Mediation Program.

1980s

Marsha Meeks '80 retired from Waynesboro Elementary in the Wayne County School District. Her service included 13 years as a piano teacher and 25 years as a first grade teacher.

Ann Wheeler Grigg '81, '82 and George Grigg were married on April 14, 2007. The couple resides in Cary, N.C.

Don Benefield MD '82 received the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award at the 41st annual C.S. O'Brien Professorship and the 29th annual Tulane Eye Alumni Day on June 9, 2006. Benefield gave a presentation titled "A Katrina Eye Care Experience."

Tracy Klein '82 presented an oral argument to the Mississippi Court of Appeals on March 7, 2007, at a hearing held at the Thad Cochran Center on campus. Tracy also recently argued an appeal to the United State Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, La. Tracy and his wife, **Kellie Uhland Klein '83**, have two sons, Jackson and Campbell.

Chris Lee Bowen '84 was recently elected to the Forrest County Board of Supervisors.

Joseph Britain '84 of Birmingham, Ala., was chosen out of 45,000 participants in the Chicago Marathon to be featured as part of "30 Runners in 30 Days."

Timothy F. Butler '84 was recently promoted to general manager of Worldwide Taxation by the Murphy Oil Corporation.

Tony Davis '84 was recently elected to the position of superintendent of education for the Lawrence County Public Schools.

Alana McCullough '84 retired from the U.S. Air Force on Dec. 1, 2006, after 22 years of active duty. McCullough began working for PricewaterhouseCoopers as a manager in October 2006.

Harry "Chip" Huey '85 and his wife, Kristin, announce the February adoption of their son, Samuel "Sam" Huey.

Kimberly Weaver '85 of Pensacola, Fla., recently competed on the game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," taking home $50,000.

Richard Hudson '86 recently relocated to Highland Village, Texas, to head the IT Support Services Department for the newly formed South Region of AmerisourceBergen Corporation.

CHARLES ATWOOD '70

Charles Atwood '70 has garnered professional success as the vice chairman of the board of directors for Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. In this role he oversees all of the company's strategic growth initiatives including development, design and construction functions, as well as the risk-management organizations including strategic sourcing, internal audit, enterprise risk management and security, surveillance and investigations.

Atwood received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern Miss in 1970.

He joined Harrah's in 1979 and has held numerous finance and development positions during his tenure. He was named chief financial officer in 2001 and joined Harrah's board of directors in July 2005. In 2006, Atwood was named to his current position.

Atwood received his MBA in finance from Tulane University and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He serves on the board of trustees for Equity Residential, a REIT listed on the New York Stock exchange. He also serves on community boards for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Performing Arts Center, as well as the Dean's Advisory Board for the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Business School.

Harrah's Entertainment is the world's largest provider of branded casino entertainment through operating subsidiaries. Since its beginning in Reno, Nev., 68 years ago, Harrah's has grown through development of new properties, expansions and acquisitions. With more than 80,000 employees, Harrah's has casinos in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Reno, Lake Tahoe, New Orleans, Biloxi and Tunica.

Atwood resides in Las Vegas, Nev.

ROBERT L. SANDERS '99

Robert L. Sanders '99 has first hand experience inspiring students to higher achievement. It wasn't long ago that Sanders was a student himself.

At 30 years old, Sanders is the youngest principal in Hattiesburg High School history. He is focused on restoring the legacy of excellence to Hattiesburg High by encouraging students to, "not just be, be the best!" Each month Sanders recognizes one student from each grade level as the STARS of the month and accompanies them to a lunch at Chesterfields.

A native of Jackson, Sanders completed his bachelor's degree in education. While at Southern Miss he received honors such as Most Outstanding Freshman Male, Dean's List, Leadership Scholar, Southern Style Host, president of the Student Government Association, and USM Student Hall of Fame. He received his master's degree at Jackson State University.

Prior to returning to Hattiesburg, Sanders taught history and served as team leader of the ninth grade academic team at Jim Hill High School of Jackson. He served as 10th and 11th grade principal and assistant principal at Wingfield High School in Jackson.

Sanders is a licensed and ordained minister and he currently serves as youth pastor at Emmanuel Tabernacle in Bolton. He is the proud father of a 5-year-old son, Keaston Sanders.

Southern Miss student **Kristin Turnage**, the daughter of **Kendall '86 and Tammy Turnage '86**, was crowned Miss Mississippi Teen at the state National American Miss Pageant.

Dr. David C. Wiesner '86 has been elected as president of the North Carolina Psychological Association. Wiesner is a practicing psychologist in Raleigh, N.C., and has been active in the state psychological association for the past 12 years.

Bobbie Jean "BJ" Wescovich-Mann '89 has earned a Ph.D. in counselor education with a minor in women's studies from Mississippi State University. Her dissertation, "The Development of Southern Association for College Student Affairs: Setting a New Course for Success," is an historical qualitative study of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs. Mann and her husband, **Roland '88**, live in Piggott, Ark. The Life Members of the Alumni Association have two children, Brittany and Brett.

David McKee '89 was appointed to Civil Service Commission for the city of Gautier, on July 17, 2007.

Robert Stephens '89 of Acworth, Ga., was recently appointed assistant secretary to the board of directors of the IQ Business Group, Inc.

1990s

Allan Misner '90, '91 has accepted the position of director of Internal Audit at Murphy Oil in El Dorado, Ark.

Daniel K. Games '91 of North Little Rock, Ark., recently accepted a position with Chesapeake Energy as director of Corporate Development.

Tony Palazzo '91 has moved back to Tupelo and has taken the job as administrator of Urology Associates. Urology Associates is a six-physician medical group serving northeast Mississippi. Palazzo is joined in Tupelo by his wife, Amy, and their three children.

V. Carlos Slawson Jr. '91 has been named interim chair of the Department of Finance at Louisiana State University's E.J. Ourso College of Business. Slawson has been employed by LSU since June 1995.

Monica Beausoleil Odom '92 and her husband, Mike, announce the March 20, 2007, birth of their son, Grant Michael Odom.

Michael Giles '93 and his wife, Amanda, announce the July 30, 2007, birth of their son, Oliver Hansen Giles.

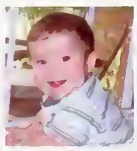
John '93 and Sheila Holder announce they have a future Golden Eagle in their household, Hope, 1. Hope is the granddaughter of **Allen '64** and Donna Holder.

Jon Runnels '93, vice president at Grand Bank in Hattiesburg, was among 224 bankers receiving graduation diplomas in June from the Graduate School of Banking at LSU in Baton Rouge. The three-year program provides courses covering all aspects of banking, economics and related topics. Runnels, a Petal native, has been employed by Grand Bank for 13 years.

LaDonna Benton Tullos '93, '96 was recently selected as 2007 Forest Municipal School District Teacher of the Year.

Jannel Tuten '93 received first place and honorable mention for her natural light photography at the Southern Miss Art Association art show in December 2006.

Kevin Etler '94 and his wife, **Heather '95**, announce the Oct. 1, 2007, birth of their son, Hank Chatet Etzler.



James Payne '94 and his wife, **Natasha '02**, announce the Dec. 14, 2006, birth of their son, James Carson Payne.

Jack Denton '96 of Biloxi, was featured in the *Los Angeles Times* in an article chronicling his legal efforts in post-hurricane Mississippi.

Melissa Pace Overholt '96 was recently promoted to show producer on CBS/Paramount's "Dr. Phil

Hill Named President of School Nutrition Association

Mary Hill '78, '80 has been named the 60th president of the School Nutrition Association. Hill holds bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics from Southern Miss and is credentialed as a School Nutrition Specialist.

Hill is currently the executive director of the Child Nutrition Program in Jackson. The area's 59 schools serve more than 31,600 students and feed 28,500 nutritious school lunches and 12,000 school breakfasts to students each school day.

Hill is active in many professional and volunteer organizations and has served in numerous leadership roles at the local, state and national levels. Hill served on her first national association committee in 1988 and as the 1989-90 president of the Mississippi School Food Service Association.

Hill was named president at the final session of the SNA conference in Chicago. The SNA Annual National Conference featured more than 6,000 school nutrition professionals and school food service industry members participating in more than 100 workshops.

Alumni Receive Chief Justice Awards

State Drug Court Coordinator Joseph Craft '91 of Clinton and Supreme Court Information Technology Department Director Michael Jones '88 of Brandon are the recipients of the 2007 Chief Justice Awards.

Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice James W. Smith Jr., a Southern Miss alumnus, announced the awards on Saturday, July 14, at the annual Mississippi Bar Convention in Sandestin, Fla. The annual awards recognize people whose work improves the judicial system.

Michael Jones

Joey Craft

Craft was recognized for his work in the development and implementation of drug courts in Mississippi. As state drug court coordinator, he oversees all drug courts in Mississippi. Mississippi has 19 drug courts–14 adult drug courts and five juvenile drug courts. Craft is responsible for monitoring each program's compliance with drug court laws and rules established by the State Drug Court Advisory Committee. Craft works with judges and court staff statewide in the planning and creation of new drug courts and the training of drug court staff. Eleven other programs are in planning stages.

Jones was recognized for his work in the design, development and implementation of the Mississippi Case Information Delivery System. MYCIDS, pronounced "my kids," is a computerized case management system for Youth Courts. Eighteen courts now use the MYCIDS system. Twelve more courts have requested the system.

Association's President-Elect Honored by Fraternity

Kappa Sigma Fraternity has honored Alumni Association president-elect Jim Payne '64, for his contributions to the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund and sponsorship of the 46 East Lawn Room Memorial in the fraternity's new International Headquarters in Charlottesville, Va.

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity Endowment Fund is the oldest college fraternity endowment, founded in 1919. The room is an identical replica of the room where the Kappa Sigma Fraternity was founded in 1869 at the University of Virginia. At a surprise banquet on Oct. 6 in the Hattiesburg campus' Thad Cochran Center, Payne received a special plaque, to be placed in the room, commemorating his contribution.

Payne's chapter brothers, fellow alumni, family members and friends joined the endowment fund trustees for the occasion. The recognition plaque was presented by Luke J. Schissel, vice chairman of the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund and past president of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. Both Payne and Schissel are members of the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame.

Payne is the owner and founder of Jim Payne Enterprises. He resides in Jackson and has a daughter, April '91, and one granddaughter, Caroline.

Ziemianski to Serve on Top 100 Law Firm's Board

Joseph A. Ziemianski '82 has been appointed to the inaugural board of directors for Cozen O'Conner law firm. Ziemianski is the office managing partner of the Houston, Texas, location and practices with the insurance department. His duties focus on insurance coverage litigation matters involving a wide array of first and third party claims, including asbestos, silica, pollution, construction defect, advertising injury, nursing home liability, toxic tort, mold, medical devices, and errors and omissions.

Admitted to practice in Texas and Mississippi and before numerous federal courts, Ziemianski is a member of the Defense Research Institute, American Bar Association and its Insurance Coverage and Tort Committees, and the State Bar of Texas' Insurance Coverage Section, among others. The alumnus is also a graduate of Tulane University Law School and has spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Warsaw Law Institute in Poland.

Founded in 1968, Cozen O'Connor is ranked among the 100 largest law firms in the United States, serving business, insurance and private clients. Cozen O'Connor is a full-service firm with 500 attorneys practicing in 23 offices. The firm has 21 offices located across the United States and international offices in London and Toronto.

Show" in Los Angeles, Calif., and was also invited to join the Writers Guild of America. She and her husband reside in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Stephanie Barnum Turner '96 was hired by Florida Community College at Jacksonville as a psychology professor.

Erin Lowe Abercrombie '97 and her husband, Patrick Abercrombie, announce the March 1, 2007, birth of their son, Alex Christopher Abercrombie.

Valerie Bolton '97 and Rev. William Hugger were married June 9, 2007, in Beaumont.

Jason Dean '97 announces the July 12, 2007, birth of his son, Carter Wadsworth Dean.

Scott Walker '97 has accepted a job as a news anchor at WESH-TV (NBC) in Orlando, Fla. Scott, his wife, **Jennifer Tregre Walker '98**, and two-year-old son, Jack, live in Altamonte Springs near Orlando, Fla.

Celia McCall Wilson '97, '99 announces the May 29, 2007, birth of her son, Charles Luke Wilson.

Brian Woods '98 has accepted an invitation to join the Peace Corps. He is scheduled to teach English as a Foreign Language in Ukraine from October 2007 until December 2009.

Lorrie '99 and James Clark '99 and announce the Nov. 2, 2006, birth of their son, James "Trey" Allen Clark III.

Courtney Zito Elliot '99 and Ryan Elliot announce the March 23, 2007, birth of their daughter, Sara Ryan Elliot.

Brian Douglas McLelland '99 and his wife, Tara Lynn, announce the Aug. 24, 2007, birth of their son, Henry Brian McLelland. Henry is welcomed by grandparents **Lynn '70** and **Doug McLelland**, and Sue and Bill Carrigee, and his aunt, **Sarah McLelland '95, '97**. Great-grandparents are Doris and Charner McLelland and Yvonne Carrigee.

Theresa I. Miles '99 will release another edition of her publication *Cozy Little Murder Mysteries*, as well as a children's book titled, "Gussie the Christmas Goose and Other Stories."

Jayson Moak '99 and **Heather R. Moak '00** announce the Aug. 22, 2006, birth of their son, Austin Presley Moak.

Stacey Smith Shagory '99 and Andrew Owens Shagory were married on June 9, 2007. The couple resides in Houston, Texas.

2000s

Julie '00, '07 and Eddy Breazeale announce the July 30, 2007, birth of their son, Blake Edward Breazeale. Blake is also welcomed by 3-year-old big brother, Barrett, and grandparents **John Allen Polk '71** and **Jan Barrett Polk '74**.

Jennifer '01, '03 and Ethan Allen '02, '06 announce the July 1, 2007, birth of their daughter, Lily Lucile Allen.

Allison Cook New '01 and Jess New '03 announce the Sept. 10, 2007, birth of their son, Luke Marshall New.

Sarah Peltier '01 has been named marketing coordinator for OrthoSynetics, the largest provider of business services to orthodontic and dental practices worldwide.

Chris '02 and **Jana Causey '02, '06** announce the March 24, 2007, birth of their son, George "Eli" Causey.

Thomas Domenico '02 of Biloxi, currently serves as a play-by-play broadcaster for Biloxi High football and co-hosts the show "The Sports Fix," both of which are broadcast on Talk Radio 1640 WTNI.

Leah Williams Hearn '02 and Matt Hearn announce the June 15, 2007, birth of their son, Noah Matthew Hearn.

Ashley Rainey Hodge '02 and Greg Hodge announce the March 8, 2007, birth of their daughter, Mary Peyton Hodge.

Yolanda Johnson Norman '02, '03 has been named director of Residence Life at the University of St. Thomas Houston.

Allie Fenn Seay '02, and her husband, Chris, announce the Oct. 17, 2006, birth of their son, Caden Christopher Seay.

Mick Bullock '03, a native of Columbia, has completed a Master of Science in management from Belhaven College. Bullock is a 1999 Columbia Academy graduate and currently is the executive to the state auditor and legislative liaison. He is the son of Mitchell and Beverly Bullock.

Holly Stephan Dennis '03 and **Jay Dennis '04** were married on March 24, 2007. The couple resides in Mobile, Ala.

Jason Lisovicz '03 has accepted a position as marketing manager for the University of Houston, overseeing all marketing and branding for the university.

Pollyanna Briann Pascal '03 and her husband, J.R. Pascal, announce the Jan. 25, 2007, birth of their daughter, Hayley Brooke Pascal.

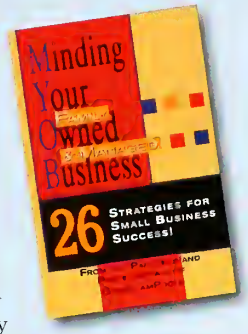
John E. Pearce Jr. '03 of Bay Springs has joined the Koerber Company, PA.

Claire Pitt '03 has been promoted to project manager at R.G. Anderson Company, Inc., in Nashville, Tenn.

Melissa Kilpatrick Ring '03 and **John Kirk Ring '00, '02** were married on May 12, 2007. The couple resides in Starkville.

Dr. Paul A. Stroud '03 and **Roxanna Fennell-Stroud '99** announce the August 5, 2007, birth of their daughter, Audrey LeeAnn Stroud.

William '03 and **Pamela Weaver '03** announce the July 23, 2007, birth of their son, William Payne Weaver III.



"Minding Your Family Owned & Managed Business"
John R. McCallum '93 • 226 pages, $24.95
Enterprise Network Worldwide, 2007

"Minding Your Family Owned & Managed Business," which is produced by GranthamPoole Certified Public Accountants, contains input from 26 experts on key issues for managing your family business. Issues range from planning and accounting to family dynamics and estate planning. It calls your attention to, and offers solutions for, numerous family-business issues to help you gain perspective, achieve greater success and live a better lifestyle.

Southern Miss alumnus John McCallum contributes his experience and expertise in chapter 14, "Cost Segregation: 'Extra' Depreciation for You." The chapter covers real estate depreciation and its tax implications. Topics include cost segregation deductions, benefits, formal cost and financial impact.

GranthamPoole is a member of Enterprise Network Worldwide, an alliance of independent accounting and consulting firms working together to provide the best possible service to clients on a worldwide basis. Member firms offer innovative business solutions in a range of specialties including assurance, valuation, financial services, tax and family-owned business.

"West of West"
Jim Taylor '58
364 pages, $18.95 • AuthorHouse, 2007

"West of West" is an exciting coming-of-age family saga. Written by alumnus Jim Taylor, the western novel is filled with mystery, romance and humor. The story is delivered through interesting and diverse characters. During the last years of the 19th century, Josh Collins set the stage for his son, Joe, to dream of owning a large ranch and raising great horses.

On a journey west, Joe gains the reputation of a fierce bounty hunter. Readers catch a glimpse of the wild and unsettled lands of the Big Bend area of Texas during the early 20th century. While fighting against deadly forces from both sides of the Rio Grande River, Joe must deal with racial prejudice and learn the joys and sorrows of love and deceit.

As a Southern Miss student, Taylor was a starting guard and permanent co-captain on the 1958 National Small College Championship team. An avid inventor, he owns approximately 60 patents for his inventions. He is also an active cutting horse rider. Taylor and his wife, Shirley, live in Seguin, Texas.

"Let Me Fly"
Elisa Mayo
208 pages, $13.99
Tate Publishing & Enterprises, 2007

"Let Me Fly" takes the reader through the joys, heartaches and victories of discovering God's chosen path. This memorable story is filled with unforgettable characters that mold the main character, Celia, and support the budding woman as she learns the hard lesson of where the path of the world leads.

Readers will share Celia's life as if it were his or her own, applauding her happiness and crying when life leaves her broken. As the Lord resurrects Celia from the ashes of her own crushed spirit, the reader will recall a time when He did the same for you. "Let Me Fly" proves to be a refreshing story of love and life, with a backdrop amid the twinkling lights of the city and the refreshing change of pace of small town country living.

Born and raised in Mississippi, Elisa Mayo resides in Quitman. She received her bachelor's degree in accounting.

"Cotton Row"
Ferris Byxbe '88, '89, '98
120 pages, $16.95
PublishAmerica, 2007

Ferris Byxbe's fictional account, "Cotton Row," takes place in 1959, in the soft, fertile underbelly of the Mississippi Delta. In the midst of racial turbulence, the rape, mutilation and murder of a little girl fueled a thirst for vengeance and justice unprecedented in the Deep South. A field of white cotton stained with the blood of youthful innocence set forth a conspiracy of such magnitude that the nation's most prominent federal law enforcement agency was helpless in its attempt to bring closure to the case.

Byxbe is a professor of criminal justice at Sul Ross State University, Rio Grande College. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice and a doctoral degree of philosophy from The University of Southern Mississippi. His career includes serving as a Mississippi law enforcement officer and Lamar County deputy medical examiner investigator. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Byxbe has numerous publications in national and regional journals. He served as a state certified instructor for Southern Miss's Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses' law enforcement training academies.

He and his wife, Donna '95, reside in Del Rio, Texas.

"What Should I Read Aloud?"
Nancy Anderson '81, '82
165 pages, $22.95
International Reading Association, 2007

Literature specialist Nancy A. Anderson has selected and described 200 best-selling picture books.

In the first two chapters, readers will learn how best to share books with young children and help them learn to read while doing so. Chapters 3-6 are organized by suggested age levels, featuring literature for children from birth through age 8. Within each of these chapters, books are further grouped by topic or theme. The seventh chapter will help readers supplement the bestsellers with multicultural literature, nonfiction, magazines and Web sites. In addition, the book features comprehensive indexes to locate subjects, authors, illustrators and titles, as well as a glossary for quick reference to essential terms.

Anderson is an associate professor in the College of Education at the University of South Florida in Tampa. She teaches courses in children's literature, methods of teaching writing and using technology in literacy instruction.

CALLING ALL GOLDEN EAGLES

Share the milestones in your life with other Southern Miss alumni. To be a part of the classnotes section of *The Talon*, please fill out this form and mail to: Southern Miss Alumni Association 118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 or e-mail us at **alumni@usm.edu.**

DATE _____

NAME _____
Include maiden name or nickname if applicable.

CLASS YEAR _____

DEGREE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

FAMILY INFORMATION
If applicable

SPOUSE _____
Include maiden name or nickname, if applicable.

CLASS YEAR _____

DEGREE _____

CHILDREN _____

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Names and ages

YOUR NEWS _____

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Attach additional pages and photos if you'd like. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return any materials you send. Please mark photos clearly.

Jack G. Griffith Jr. '04 Myrtle Beach, S.C., has joined the faculty of Francis Marion University as an assistant professor of speech communications.

Anastasia Smith-McEwen '04 and Terrence McEwen were married on June 9, 2007. The couple resides in Jackson.

Rudy Bracey '05 and **Pamela Scott-Bracey '06** were married on July 21, 2007. The couple resides in Byram.

Erin Yarborough Garcia '06 and **Mark Garcia '06** announce the Aug. 15, 2007, birth of their son, Gavin Cruz Garcia.

Matthis Piel '06 and his wife **Vanessa Piel '01** announce the April 1, 2005, birth of their sons, Ethan and Evan Piel.

Lexey Collins Robinett '06 and her husband Joshua Robinett announce the March 4, 2007, birth of their daughter, Lillie Claire Robinett.

Anitra Wooten '06 of Hattiesburg announces the launch of her new business, Wooten's Expert Marketing Services, a marketing consulting service that provides businesses and consumers with expert advice.

In Memoriam

Mildred H. Rooker '38 of Jackson died July 3, 2007.

Merle Crumpton '42 of Brandon died Sept. 16, 2007.

Imelda B. Null '42 of Ridgeland died Sept. 4, 2007.

Abbie J. Stayner '42 of Jacksonville, Fla., died August 16, 2007.

Rowena R. Hawkins '45 of Jackson died September 12, 2007.

Iron R. Tootle '48 of Lufkin, Texas, died July 1, 2007.

S.D. Cole '49 of Jackson died July 5, 2007.

Mary Frances Gandy '49 of Hattiesburg died July 26, 2007.

Joseph L. Hurst '49 of Booneville died Aug. 12, 2007.

Carl Lafayette Little '49 of Muskegon, Mich., died July 4, 2007.

Hilton J. Stuard '49 of Jackson died Sept. 25, 2007.

James E. Gregory '50 of Adamsville, Ala., died July 18, 2007.

James R. Jefcoat '50 of Meridian died July 11, 2007.

William B. Ruble Jr. '50 of Gulfport died Aug. 12, 2007.

William T. Sharpe '50 of Mobile, Ala., died June 19, 2007.

Wright Wilson Cross '51 of Baker, La., died July 26, 2007.

Amelia A. Graeser '51 of Meridian died Sept. 9, 2007.

J.O. Miller, Jr. '51 of Athens, Ala., died Jan. 5, 2007.

Dahlia P. Boone '52 of Pascagoula died July 16, 2007.

Winston C. Morris '52 of Jackson died July 15, 2007.

Catherine Clower Thornhill '52 of Gulfport died Aug. 18, 2007.

Stan Xavier Bessey '53 of Sacramento, Calif., died Aug. 5, 2007.

Clara D. Martin '54 of Marietta, Ga., died Sept. 12, 2007.

William W. Mullineaux '54 of Eldersburg, Md., died July 22, 2007.

Lenton Weatherford '54 of Defuniak Springs, Fla., died Sept. 10, 2007.

Valeria I. Weems '54 of Batesville died July 18, 2007.

Ann Lynch Boyer '55 of Jacksonville, Fla., died in August 2007.

Ellen Delora Higginbotham '55 of Walthall, died July 5, 2007.

Jackson R. Norton Jr. '56 of Mobile, Ala., died Aug. 9, 2007.

Jewel R. Somich '56 of Clute, Texas, died July 24, 2007.

Gayle L. Moore '58 of Meridian died July 1, 2007.

Ronald L. Stohler '59 of Levittown, Pa., died Sept. 14, 2007.

Mary Nell Carruth Gay '61 of Panama City, Fla., died Aug. 10, 2007.

Clementine Smith Larkin '61 of Natchez died June 13, 2007.

Monroe M. Wright '62 of Jackson died Aug. 21, 2007.

Jimmy D. Howell '63 of Laurel died May 17, 2007.

JoAnn Blakeney '64 of Laurel died Oct. 5, 2007.
Bob Albert Hardy '64 of D'Iberville died on Aug. 4, 2007.
William S. Harris '64 of Ocean Springs died Aug. 4, 2007.
Nick D. Necaise '66 of New Braunfels, Texas, died June 22, 2007.
Fred Hancock '69 of Terry died May 2005.
Dorothy Foil '70 of Denham Springs, La., died Aug. 11, 2007.
Mary Childree '71 of Durham, N.C., died on Sept. 7, 2007.
Bruce E. Welch '71 of Roanoke, Va., died Sept. 2, 2007.
John J. Cunningham '72 of Biloxi died July 25, 2007.
Joyce E. Hall '73 of Natchez died Aug. 4, 2007.
Kenneth Ranney '73 of Madison died May 21, 2006.
Everette H. Crapps '74 of Mobile, Ala., died Sept. 24, 2007.
Edd Easterling '76 of Helena, Ala., died July 24, 2007.
Richard A. Tinsley '76 of Ocean Springs died July 1, 2007.
Phyllis R. Herrington '78 of Smithtown, N.Y., died June 29, 2007.
Johnnie S. Thacker '78 of Anderson, S.C., died Oct. 3, 2007.
Jan K. Welker '78 of Saucier died Oct. 2, 2007.
Mary K. Grimes '79 of Gulfport died July 31, 2007.
Charles A. Kriss Jr. '80, '82 of Troy, Ohio, died Aug. 12, 2007.
Ginny Lee Scott Carr '82 of Carthage died Aug. 8, 2007.
Lucy S. Calcote '86 of Birmingham, Ala., died Aug. 12, 2007.
Susie Stringer Denton '86 of Carriere died June 21, 2007.
David N. Herrick '93 of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Sept. 8, 2007.
Jane Anne Knebel '95 of Bay St. Louis died Oct. 5, 2007.
Yvona Rijsdijk '02 of Dallas, Texas, died July 29, 2007.
Mary L. Sudduth '02 of Pass Christian died Aug. 30, 2007.
David C. Clemons Jr. of Mobile, Ala., died Sept. 21, 2007.
Mike T. Hession Jr. of Richton died Oct. 4, 2007.
Vanessa I. Hill of Kiln died July 11, 2007.
Crystal K. Hungerford of Biloxi died July 7, 2007.
Cathy A. Huntsman of Biloxi died July 25, 2007.
David W. Kinsey of Sumrall died Sept. 1, 2007.
Donna A. Little of Meridian died July 18, 2007.
Buford C. Nicholson Jr. of Jackson died July 14, 2007.
Avis B. Rabin of Miami, Fla., died July 9, 2007.
Mark M. Simrall of Jackson died July 21, 2007.
Hazel Welch of Hattiesburg died June 30, 2007.

Flashback... 1952

"High Tech in the Fifties"

This manual typewriter and dictation machine were cutting edge technology in 1952.

(The Southerner, 1952)

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Continue your support of The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association by doing business with the Association's Marketing Partners. By utilizing the goods and services of these marketing partners, you will be generating additional revenue to support the programming and operations of the Association.

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Specially Designed Southern Miss Degree Frames. For more information, go to www.diplomadisplay.com or call 800.422.4100.

Alumni Holidays International

Organizing International Excursions for Southern Miss Alumni. For further information on upcoming trips, contact the Alumni Association at 601.266.5013.

MARSH

Marsh Alumni Services

Whether it is life, health, or long-term care insurance, you can obtain important financial protection for your family at an affordable rate through Marsh Alumni Services. For more information, call 1.888.560.ALUM (2586).

jostens

Josten's

Official Southern Miss Alumni Watch. For more information, call 800.523.0124 and request operator A22SF.

Sumrall Printing and Framing

Printing and Framing. For more information, call 1.866.418.0320.

Balfour

Balfour

Official Southern Miss Ring. For more information or to order, call 866.BALFOUR and ask for reference code 2315.

Campus Book Mart

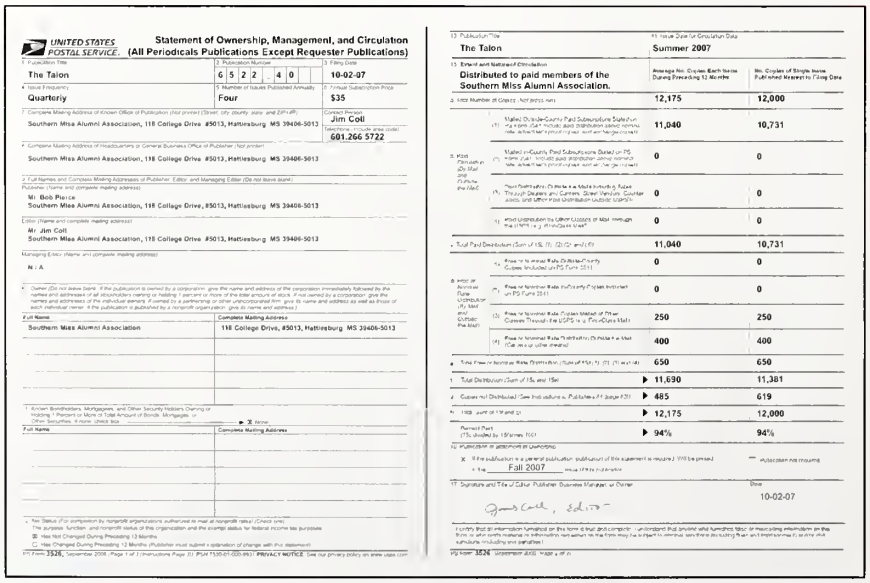
Campus Book Mart

Southern Miss Apparel and Gifts. For more information, call 888.712.5083.

Liberty Mutual

Liberty Mutual

Liberty Mutual is the official home and auto insurer of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. For more information, call 1.800.981.2372.



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Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): N / A

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Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Southern Miss Alumni Association	118 College Drive, #5013, Hattiesburg MS 39406-5013

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. (If none, check box) ▶ ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, September 2006 (Page 1 of 3 (Instructions Page 3)) PSN 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

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(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541. (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	400	400
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	650	650
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	▶ 11,690	11,381
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	▶ 485	619
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☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Fall 2007 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Jim Coll, Editor — Date: 10-02-07

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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GET THE C.A.R.D.

Current Alumni Retail Discounts

www.SouthernMissAlumni.com

This listing contains current participants in The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association's C.A.R.D. (Current Alumni Retail Discounts) Program. By presenting either your Southern Miss Alumni Association annual dues membership card or your Life Membership card, you will receive the discount noted by each participant. The program is designed to bring added value to your membership in the Alumni Association and to thank you for your support of Southern Miss.

Anderson's Rug Market	10% discount on any rug purchase
Ashley's Sporting Goods	10% discount on purchases
Big Buck Sports	10% off merchandise (firearms and sale items excluded)
Bourne Brothers Printing	20% discount on any service
Brownstone's LLC	20% discount on entrees
Calienté Grille	10% off of total purchase
Classic Concepts / ACE Home Center	10% discount on purchases or rentals
Comfort Inn-The Lodge	10% off rack rate
Comfort Suites *	10% off rack rate
Domino's Pizza *	20% discount on any delivery order
Expectations	15% discount on total purchase (does not apply to furniture)
Garfield's Restaurant *	20% discount on all food & drink purchases
Grand Bank	$100 discount on mortgage loan closing costs
Hattiesburg Inn *	15% discount on nightly room rate
Hawthorn Suites	10% off rack rate
Hopson Law Firm, PLLC	Free initial consultation on any contingency fee case 10% discount on initial consultation fee on non-contingency cases
J&L Sales	10% discount on any purchase
Kesslers Team Sports	10% discount on total purchases
King Photography	10% discount on studio photography, excluding senior portraits
Kitchen Table	10% discount on purchases
Lance Computer Systems	20% discount on normal labor charges
Leatha's Bar-B-Que Inn	10% discount on all purchases
The First, A National Banking Assoc.	$200 discount in closing costs on mortgage loans
Mike Anderson's Seafood	10% discount on selected purchases
Mike's Tire and Wheel	10% discount on all sales
More Ink Payless, LLC	10% discount on all purchases
Nevada Bob's Golf (Coast)	10% discount on selected items
Nick Crechales	10% discount on entrees
Oak Grove Rental	10% discount on rental items / not valid with other discounts
Owen's Business Machines	10% discount on selected items
Outback Storage Co.	5% discount on rental
Parris Jewelers	10% discount on all items
Pine Burr Country Club	$5 off one 18-hole round of golf
Shadow Ridge Golf Club	15% discount on a round of golf / not valid with other discounts
Signs First *	15% discount on Southern Miss related signs
Simmons Furniture	10% discount on all items
Sonic Drive Inn on Hwy 11	Free 20 oz. Drink or Slush with purchase of #1 or #2 Burger
Southern Interiors	5% discount on flooring / 10% discount on furniture and accessories
Southland Florists	10% discount on store purchases (cash-and-carry items excluded)
Stix & Stones Garden Center	10% discount on total purchase (sale items excluded)
Tall Pines Farm	10% discount on gift baskets and catering
Touchstone Dental Care	10% discount on dental services
Tranquility Day Spa	10% member discount, 15% for Life Members on all services (not valid with other discounts)
University Florist	10% discount on all purchases (cash and carry only)
Villies Restaurant	$1 off order of six-inch sandwich, side order, and large drink / $1 off game day party subs

^ All discounts subject to change or termination without prior notice. Please verify discount with provider before making purchase.

* Hattiesburg locations only.

(+) Offer not valid during football season.

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